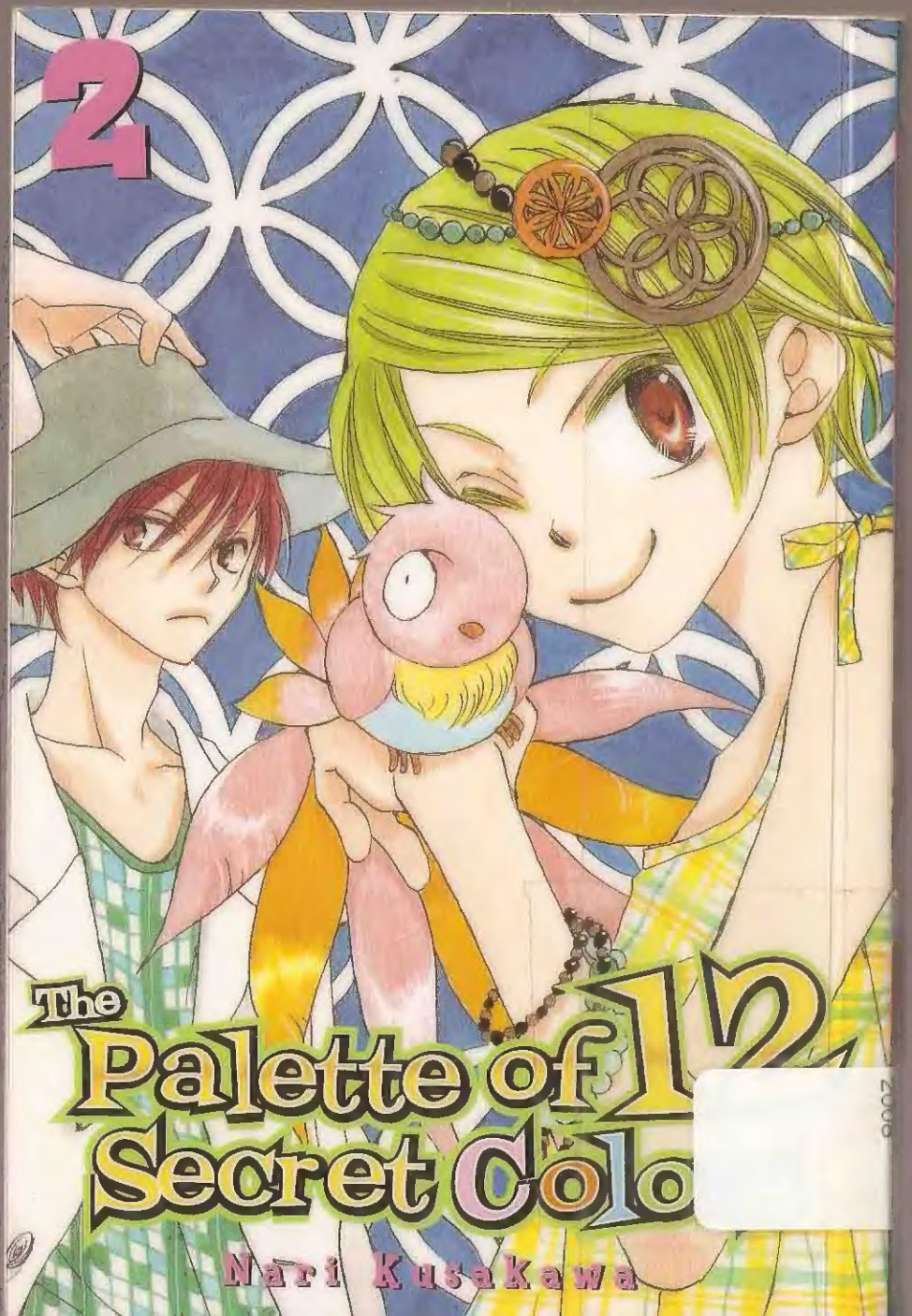
2
The Palette of 12
Secret Colo
Nari Kusakawa

'Tis the se
to deck t
halls with
colors galore!

It's Christmas time on the island of **Opal**, and a visiting young Prince introduces holiday traditions to its residents. What could be more festive than the powers of the color wizards unleashed upon the season? But Dr. Guell is jealous of the relationship between the **Prince** and **Cello** and adds a sour note to the happy celebration. Then, find out more about Cello's family and learn how she first bonded with Yoyo, her very special bird.

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The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

Volume 2

By Nari Kusakawa

CONTENTS

4 Chapter 4

55 Chapter 5

95 Chapter 6

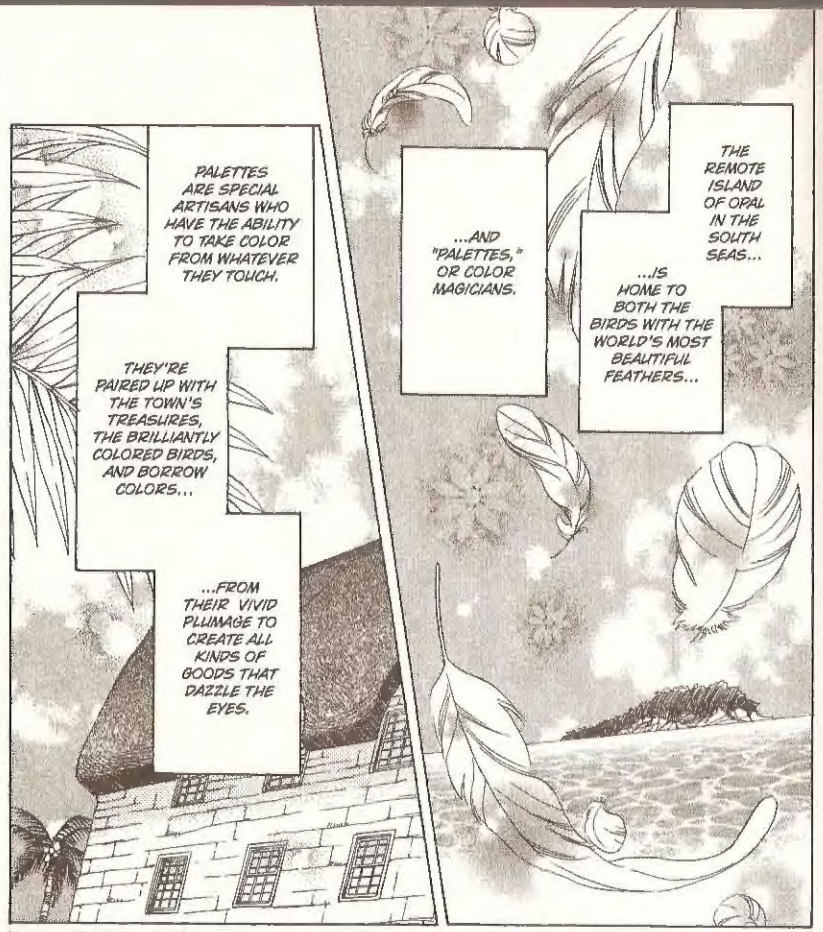
125 Bonus Story: Contract Papillon

178 Bonus Material

The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

十二秋色のパレット

EPISODE 4


PALETTES ARE SPECIAL ARTISANS WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO TAKE COLOR FROM WHATEVER THEY TOUCH.
THEY'RE PAIRED UP WITH THE TOWN'S TREASURES, THE BRILLIANTLY COLORED BIRDS, AND BORROW COLORS...
...FROM THEIR VIVID PLUMAGE TO CREATE ALL KINDS OF GOODS THAT DAZZLE THE EYES.
...AND "PALETTES," OR COLOR MAGICIANS.
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BOTH THE BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...

IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO DECEMBER 24TH AND AT THE MOMENT, THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL IS EXPERIENCING A "CHRISTMAS BOOM" FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
HELLO, I'M CELLO.
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN ONE OF 'EM!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE TREES?

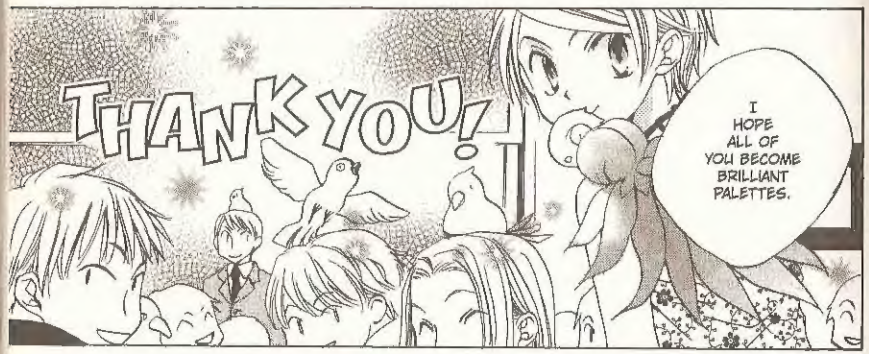
Episode 4
Preview cut

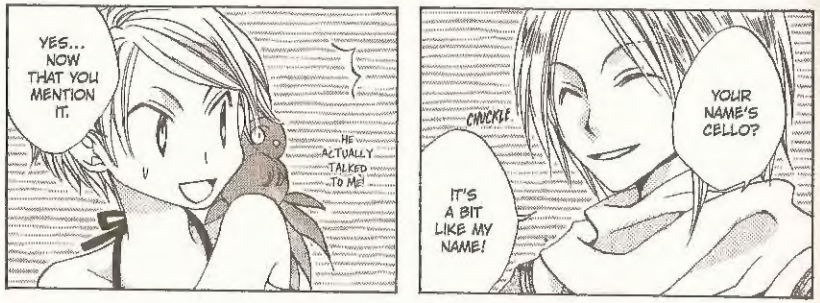
This isn't in color, but think of her kerchief (do people still say "kerchief"?) and her dress as being in red.

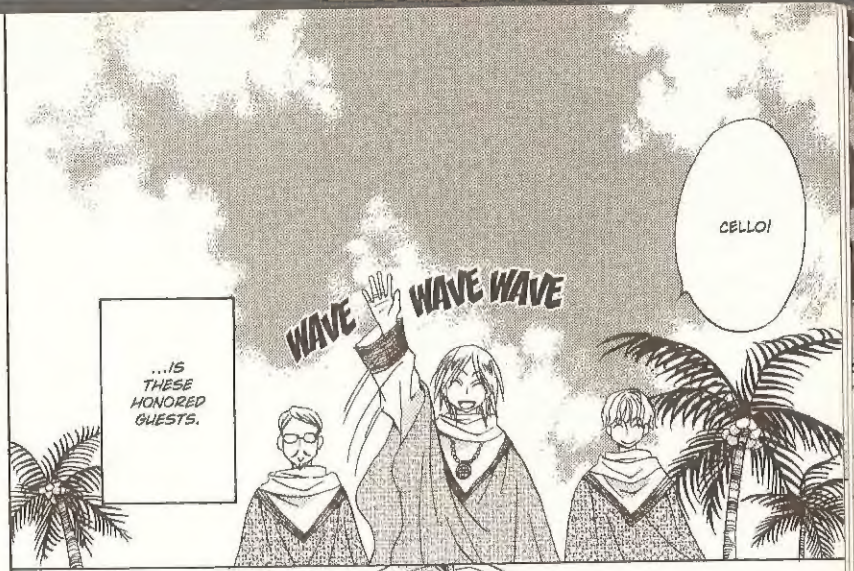
I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
DR. GUELL, WEARING THAT UNIFORM...
CELLO...
...SUDDENLY MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A DOCTOR!
"SHUIWAKI-MASERI" MEANS "THE LORD IS COME"*.
IT'S NOT A VEGETABLE!
OUR VERSION IS VEERING WILDLY FROM THE SPHERE OF CHRISTIANITY AND WE'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CUSTOMS IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT STILL, THIS YEAR IS SPECIAL...
...YOU ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME?
TO BE HONEST, I HATE PUTTING ON A SUIT...
...BUT WHEN WE'VE GOT GUESTS, THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT.
* FROM THE JAPANESE VERSION OF "JOY TO THE WORLD"
AH!
HEY!
THE REASON FOR THIS "SEASON" ...
HOW'S YOUR STUDYING GOING FOR THE END-OF-TERM EXAM?
AH, SO-SO, I GUESS ...

WHAT'S "SHUIWAKIMASERI"?
I THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF VEGETABLE...
YOU KNOW, LIKE PARSLEY, CELERY...
12-PIECE
6-PIECE
HUH?
IS SOMETHING STRANGE?
THAT'S STRANGE.
AND PEOPLE IN OPAL DON'T EAT ANY KIND OF BIRD, SO PUTTING BIRDS IN BUCKETS JUST DOESN'T WORK*.
ALSO, TAKE THE RIBBONS OFF THE PEACH TREES!
DECORATING THE TREES IS OKAY, BUT YOU HAVE TO HANG THE SOCKS NEAR YOUR PILLOW.
OTHERWISE, SANTA WON'T KNOW WHO THEY BELONG TO.
WHAT IS, DR. GUELL?
ACTUALLY, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME OPAL CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS.
* IN JAPAN, FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, IT'S A TRADITION TO EAT FAST-FOOD CHICKEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

EVEN I CAN SEE HOW ENTHUSIASTICALLY THE STUDENTS HERE DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THEIR STUDIES.
VERY PROMISING.
THEY WERE ENVOYS FROM ONE OF THE LANDS THAT DO BUSINESS WITH OPAL AND WERE HERE TO OBSERVE THE TRAINING SCHOOL.
PRINCE OTHELLO WAS ONE OF THEM.
VERY GOOD.
CLAP CLAP
CLAP


THANK YOU!
I HOPE ALL OF YOU BECOME BRILLIANT PALETTES.

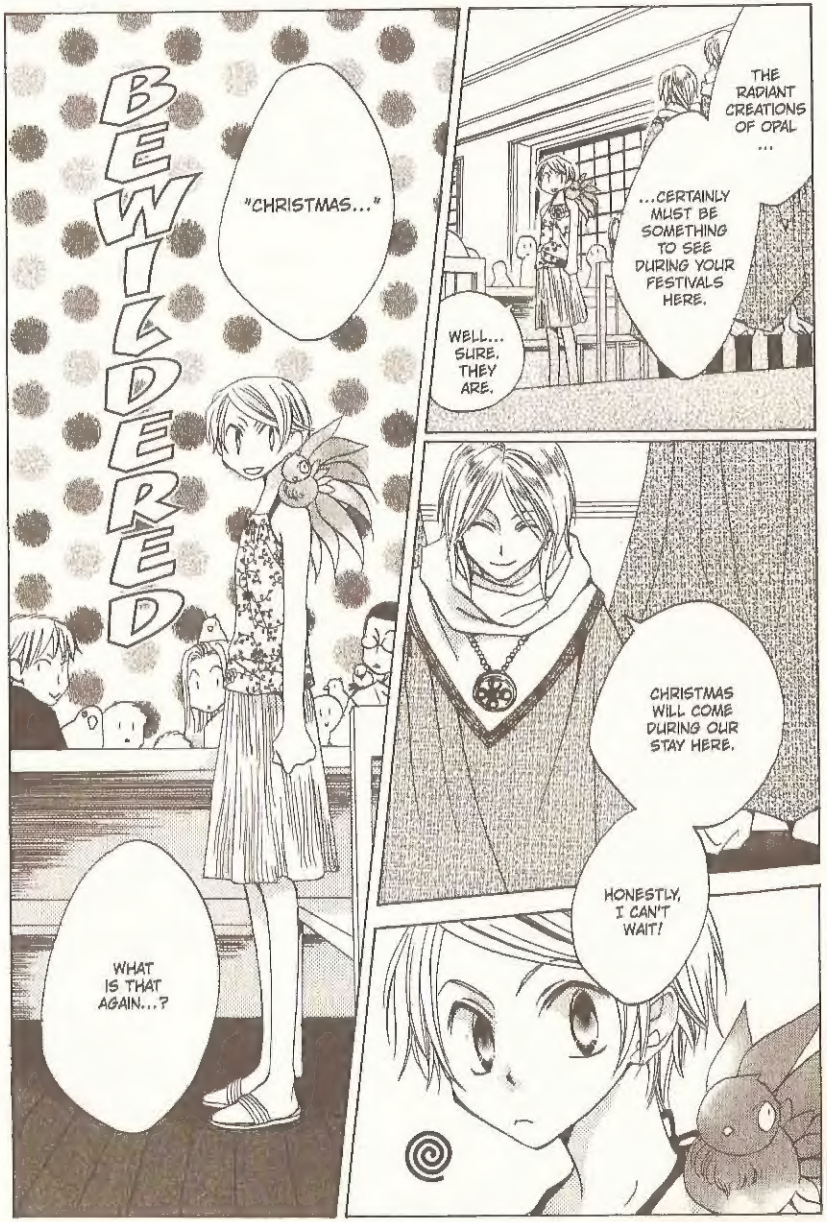

YES... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.
HE ACTUALLY TALKED TO ME!
CHUCKLE
IT'S A BIT LIKE MY NAME!
YOUR NAME'S CELLO?


CELLO!
WAVE WAVE WAVE
...IS THESE HONORED GUESTS.

HI!
THE PRINCE'S NAME IS OTHELLO.
THEY COME FROM HALEI, A COUNTRY THAT THRIVES ON COMMERCE.

YES?!
BATTLE
ALL RIGHT, WHO CAN ANSWER THIS?
CELLO?
DAYS EARLIER..
...AND SO...
...REGARDING THE CONCEPT OF "PARITY", EQUALIZING THE BRIGHTNESS IS...
UM...
THE LIKENESS SATURATION COLOR SCHEME.
MM..
CORRECT.

BUT THE PRINCIPAL OF OUR SCHOOL HAD THE QUICK WITS TO TURN IT AROUND.
THE PRINCE'S INITIAL SURPRISE ....
YOU DON'T HAVE IT HERE?!
IS THAT SO...?
I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T ...
WHAT?!
... STUPIDED ENOUGH OF YOUR CULTURE. MY APOLOGIES.
...TURNED TO TERRIBLE DISAPPOINT-MENT...
WELL, IF YOUR ANTICIPATION WAS THAT HIGH, IT WOULD BE A GRAVE INJUSTICE IF WE WERE TO DO NOTHING.
SPARKLING ORNAMENTS...
COLORFUL TREES...
PRINCE!
...EVEN AFTER HE WAS APOLOGIZED TO FOR THE DISCOURTESY.
...WILL BE "CREATING A PALLETESQUE CHRISTMAS"!
BUZZ
THE THEME FOR THE PRACTICAL PORTION OF THE END-OF-TERM EXAM...
EH...?

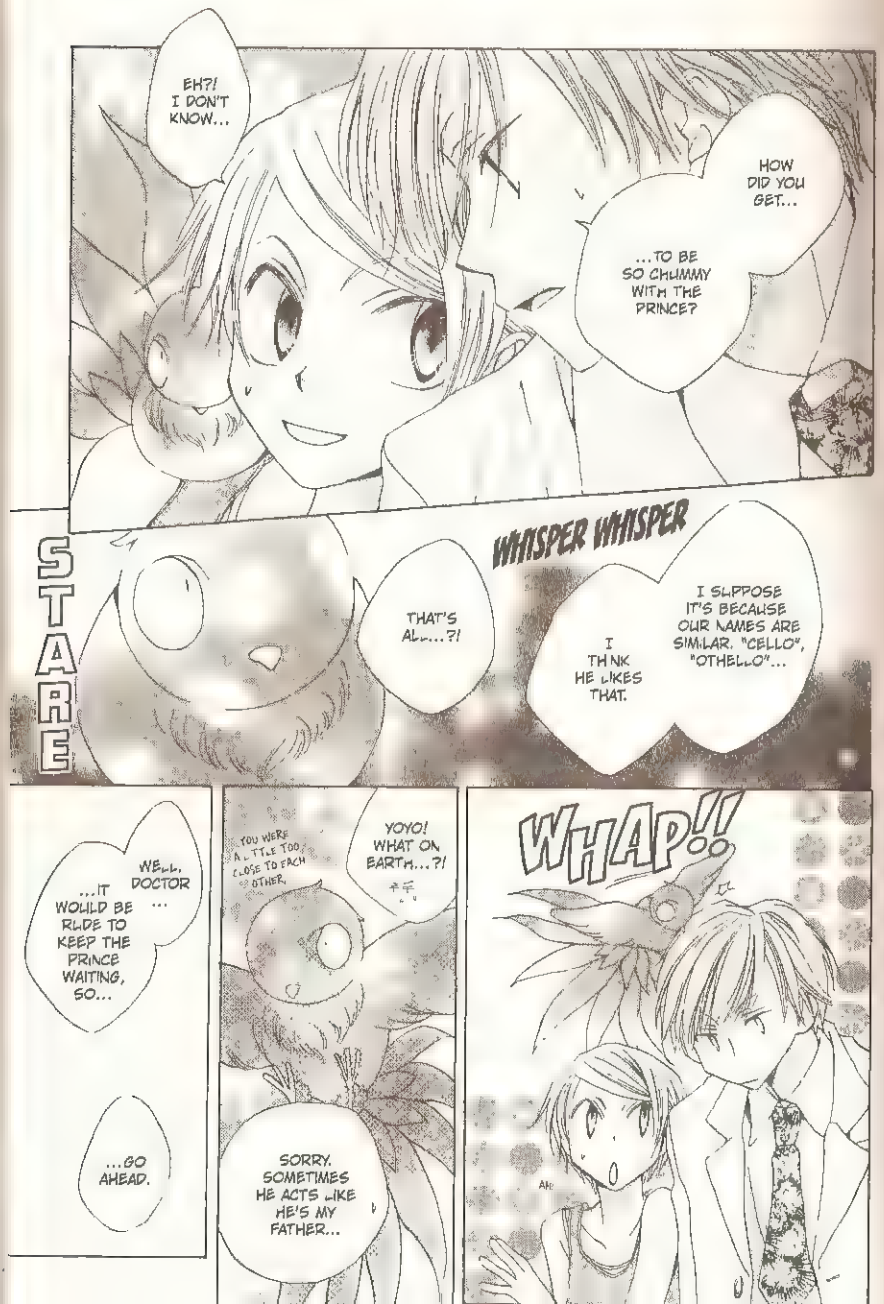

BEWILDERED
"CHRISTMAS..."
WHAT IS THAT AGAIN...?
THE RADIANT CREATIONS OF OPAL ...
...CERTAINLY MUST BE SOMETHING TO SEE DURING YOUR FESTIVALS HERE.
WELL... SURE. THEY ARE.
CHRISTMAS WILL COME DURING OUR STAY HERE.
HONESTLY, I CAN'T WAIT!

1.

HELLO.
THANK YOU FOR GETTING VOLUME TWO OF *PALETTE*.
THERE'S A LOT OF NEW MATERIAL IN HERE, SO I HOPE YOU READ THROUGH AND ENJOY 'TIL THE VERY END. AFTER I FINISH MY MANGA WORK FOR TODAY, I'M GOING TO THE HAIR SALON. IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS, WHICH IS NORMAL, I SUPPOSE.
THE PLACE I GO TO IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY ONE PERSON, SO IF I MAKE A RESERVATION BEFOREHAND, I HAVE THE WHOLE SALON TO MYSELF.
MY STYLIST IS A QUIET PERSON AND DOESN'T TRY TO START UP A CONVERSATION, SO I GET TO HAVE JUST ABOUT TWO HOURS OF PERFECT SILENCE. I LIKE HAVING TO JUST SIT THERE AND DO NOTHING.

NO, IT WAS MY FAMILY'S TRADITION TO GO TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
OH!
DOES YOUR COUNTRY HOLD A BINGO TOURNAMENT ON THE NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS EVE AS WELL?
WHICH IS A CORRUPTION OF SAINT NICHOLAS.
IN MY COUNTRY, GUARDIANS OR SWEETHEARTS PLAY THE ROLE OF SANTA CLAUS!
WHY?
WHEN EVERYDAY SWEETS ARE STUFFED INTO LONG BOOTS, THEY BECOME EVEN TASTIER. ♡
...BUT IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH DR. GUELL'S CHRISTMAS IS THE MORE AUTHENTIC.
I SEE OUR CHRISTMASES ARE ON DIFFERENT WAVE-LENGTHS.
AHA-HA!
THE SEASONAL EVENTS IN MY COUNTRY ARE LIVELY AFFAIRS...

GLOW
THANK YOU, SIR!
OH, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO THAT FAR...
I'M INDEBTED TO YOU FOR LIFE!
SHAKE
SHAKE
...I'LL DO MY BEST NOT TO DISAPPOINT HIM!
YEAH
...BUT IF IT MAKES HIM THAT HAPPY...
OOO!
GUESS WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE...
AND SO, THE CHRISTMAS BOOM CAME TO OPAL.
DR. GUELL CAME FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY...
I'M THE SCHOOL DOCTOR, GUELL.
HELLO.
HELLO, PRINCE...
...SO HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT CHRISTMAS, TOO!
OH...I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET BEFORE...
...AND HIS ATTENDANTS!


EH?! I DON'T KNOW...
HOW DID YOU GET...
...TO BE SO CHUMMY WITH THE PRINCE?
STARE
WHISPER WHISPER
THAT'S ALL...?!
I THINK HE LIKES THAT.
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE OUR NAMES ARE SIMILAR. "CELLO", "OTHELLO"...
WELL, DOCTOR...
...IT WOULD BE RUDE TO KEEP THE PRINCE WAITING, SO...
...GO AHEAD.
YOU WERE A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER.
YOYO! WHAT ON EARTH...?!
SORRY. SOMETIMES HE ACTS LIKE HE'S MY FATHER...
WHAP!!
AH

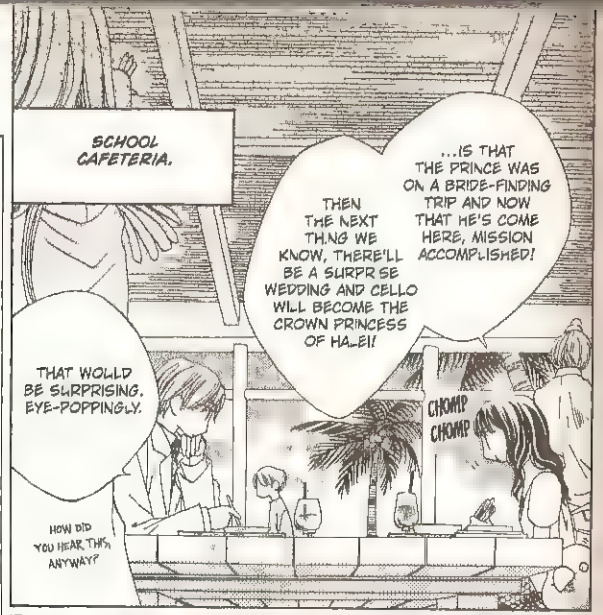
MM.
ACTUALLY...
YOU TOO, CELLO. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, GO AHEAD AND ASK...
GRIN
...I WILL TEACH CELLO EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
THEREFORE...
...I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON YOU TO BE THE CHRISTMAS ADVISOR.
ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THE STUDENTS HAVE ABOUT THE HOLIDAY.
I ACCEPT.
IT FELT LIKE I WAS THE DE FACTO ADVISOR ANYWAY
WAIT...
...JUST A SECOND!
WELL...
SHALL WE GO, CELLO?
SEE YOU LATER, DOCTOR.

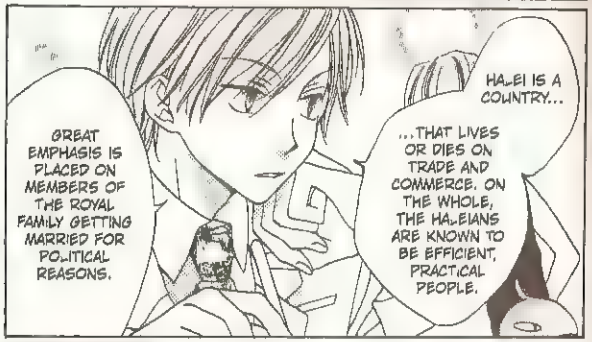
SURE...
...PRINCE... OTHELLO?
I WAS STRUCK BY THE SIMILARITY OF OUR NAMES...
...AND YOU'VE BEEN SO EASY TO TALK TO, I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF FROM BLURTING IT OUT.
BUT IT SEEMED NATURAL TO SHARE A SECRET WITH A FRIEND, YOU KNOW?
AHA-HA!
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME "PRINCE"!
KYAAA!
KYAAA!
MM...EVEN CALLING YOU THAT NOW SEEMS A LITTLE WEIRD!
I'M SO HAPPY I MET YOU HERE, CELLO.
YOU'VE MADE MY LAST TRIP ABROAD MEMORABLE.
OPAL IS A WONDROUS PLACE.

SCARY ...
AND THAT ONE ACTS LIKE A GIRLFRIEND ...
-SNAPH!-
STALK
STALK
GLANCE ...
KEEPING QUIET ABOUT THE PRINCE'S LITTLE SECRET MAY BE DIFFICULT...
...BUT I BEG YOU NOT TO TELL ANYONE.
YOU COULD SAY THAT. WHEN IT COMES TO PRACTICAL SKILLS, I'M A FLOP.
CELLO, PERHAPS DR. GUELL GIVES YOU SPECIAL HELP?

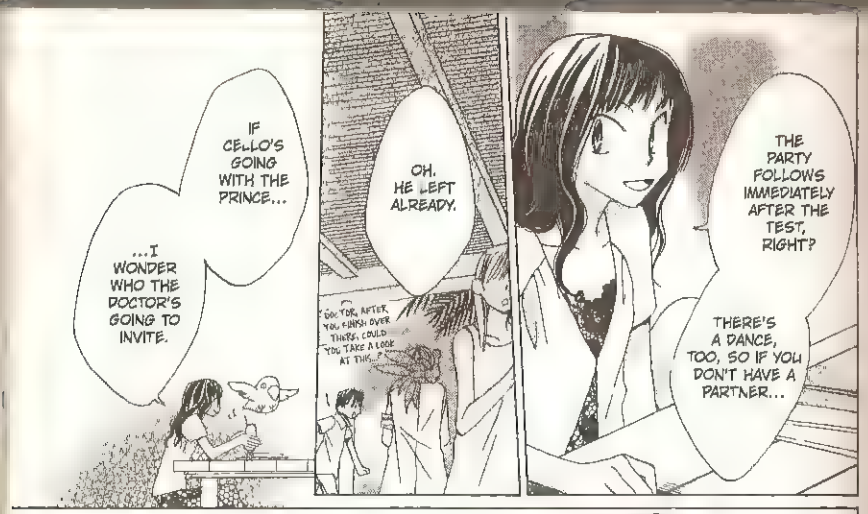
2.

ABOUT "SHUWAKIMASERI." ONE OF THE OPALITES THOUGHT "SHUWAKIMASERI" WAS A VEGETABLE LIKE PARSLEY OR CELERY, BUT WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE EXPRESSION, THE IMAGE I GOT IN MY HEAD WAS "ANGELICA", THE BUTTERBUR SUGAR COATING THAT'S USED TO MAKE SWEETS. THAT'S WHAT "SHUWAKIMASERI" ("THE LORD IS COME") FEELS LIKE IT SHOULD BE TO ME, BUT THEN WHAT THE HECK DO I KNOW?! I LOVE THE SONG "JOY TO THE WORLD."

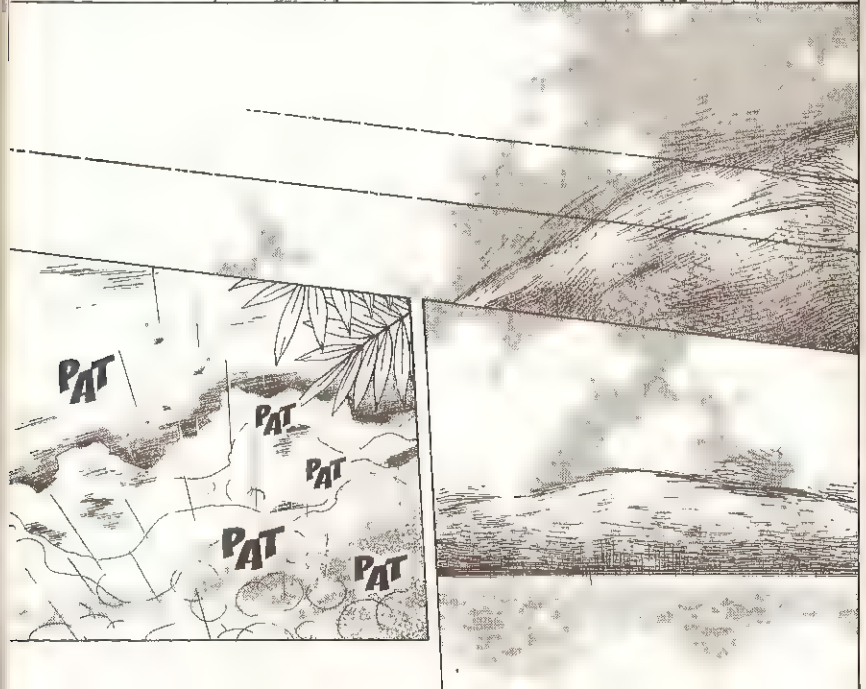

SCHOOL CAFETERIA.
...IS THAT THE PRINCE WAS ON A BRIDE-FINDING TRIP AND NOW THAT HE'S COME HERE, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
THEN THE NEXT THING WE KNOW, THERE'LL BE A SURPRISE WEDDING AND CELLO WILL BECOME THE CROWN PRINCESS OF HALEI!
CHOMP CHOMP
THAT WOULD BE SURPRISING. EYE-POPPINGLY.
HOW DID YOU HEAR THIS, ANYWAY?


HALEI IS A COUNTRY...
...THAT LIVES OR DIES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE. ON THE WHOLE, THE HALEIANS ARE KNOWN TO BE EFFICIENT, PRACTICAL PEOPLE.
GREAT EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY GETTING MARRIED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

SIP
ULP
I KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING SOUNDS DUMB, BUT...
ALL RIGHT, THEN...
MAYBE THEY'RE GOING TO ELOPE...
SO I CAN'T THINK HOW CELLO COULD BE A PRINCESS IN THAT COUNTRY...


IF CELLO'S GOING WITH THE PRINCE...
...I WONDER WHO THE DOCTOR'S GOING TO INVITE.
OH. HE LEFT ALREADY.
GO TO, AFTER YOU FINISH OVER THERE, COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...?
THE PARTY FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TEST, RIGHT?
THERE'S A DANCE, TOO, SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PARTNER...

...I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
HAH! IT MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I DO HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
EH? YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO?


PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT

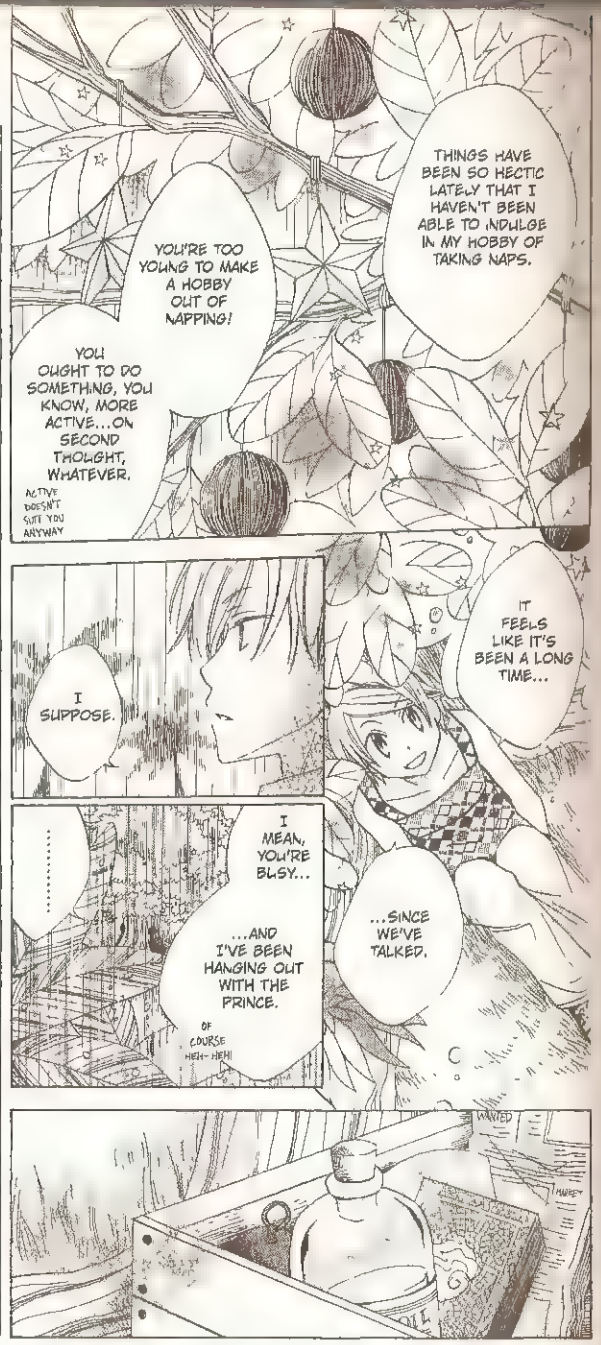
HIS LAST TRIP ABROAD...
AND NOW, HE'S TALKING ABOUT THAT...
...LOOK AT THE TWO OF THEM! THEY'RE AS THICK AS THIEVES!
BUT WHEN I ASK HER ABOUT THE PRINCE, SHE CLAMS UP.
SURE.
PLEEAAASE?
...BUT WE NEED SOME CHRISTMAS SUPERVISION OVER THERE A SECOND.
AH!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE EATING, DR. GUELL...

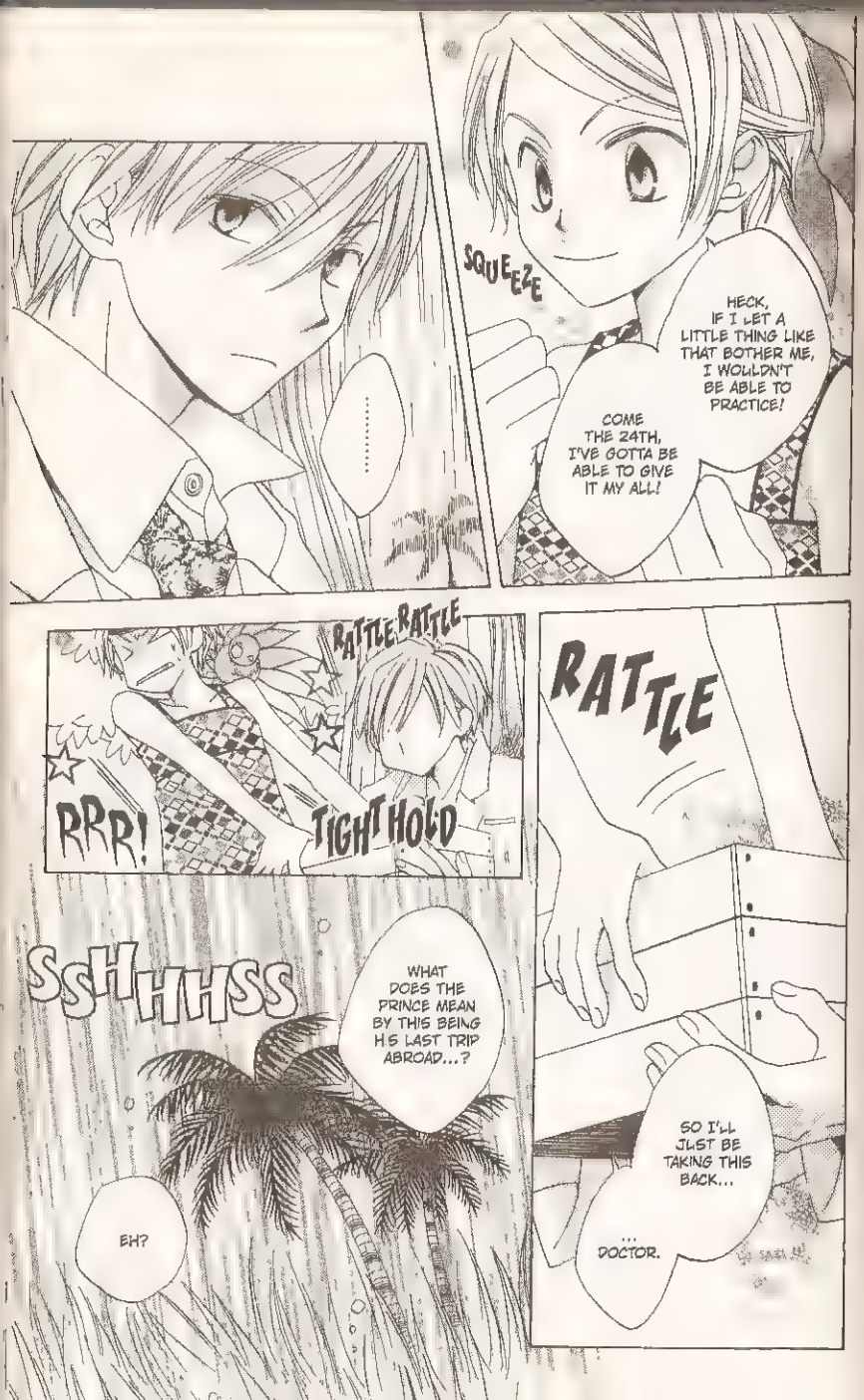
YOU REALLY ARE BUSY...
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE... IN FORMAL WEAR.
IF I DID HAVE THE FREE TIME TO DIG THAT STUFF OUT OF MY CHEST OF DRAWERS, I'D RATHER USE IT TO GRAB A NAP!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE UP FOR GRABS.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE PARTY THAT'S GOING TO BE HELD ON THE 24TH, AFTER THE PRACTICAL TEST S OVER?

3.

ABOUT RED BOOTS... WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I GOT PRESENTS, TOO, LEFT NEAR MY PILLOW, BUT FOR THE MOST PART, I'VE TOTALLY FORGOTTEN WHAT THE PRESENTS WERE. WHAT I DO REMEMBER IS THE BONUS THING THAT WAS ATTACHED TO THE PRESENT, THE RED BOOTS FILLED WITH CANDY. I WANTED TO WEAR THOSE LITTLE BOOTS SO BADLY THAT I TRIED STRETCHING THEM OVER MY FEET, BUT IT WAS NO GO. IT WAS KIND OF GALLING.


THINGS HAVE BEEN SO HECTIC LATELY THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO INDULGE IN MY HOBBY OF TAKING NAPS.
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A HOBBY OUT OF NAPPING!
YOU OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING, YOU KNOW, MORE ACTIVE...ON SECOND THOUGHT, WHATEVER.
ACTIVE DOESN'T SUIT YOU ANYWAY
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
I SUPPOSE.
...SINCE WE'VE TALKED.
I MEAN, YOU'RE BUSY...
...AND I'VE BEEN HANGING OUT WITH THE PRINCE.
OF COURSE HEH~ HEH!
WANTED
MURDER

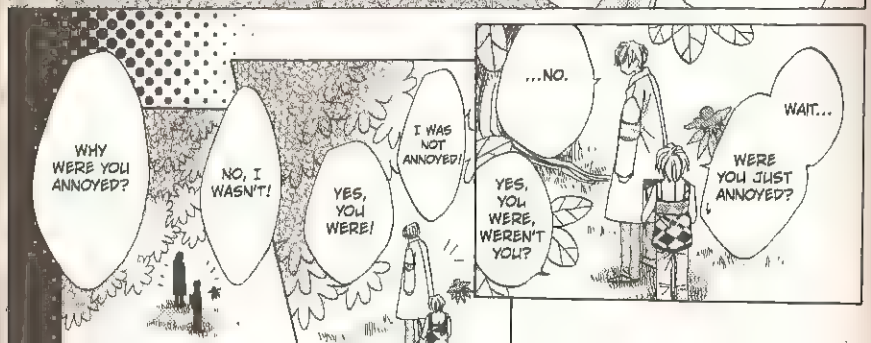

.....
SQUEEZE
HECK, IF I LET A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT BOTHER ME, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PRACTICE!
COME THE 24TH, I'VE GOTTA BE ABLE TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
RATTLE RATTLE
RRR!
TIGHT HOLD
SSHHHSS
WHAT DOES THE PRINCE MEAN BY THIS BEING HIS LAST TRIP ABROAD...?
EH?
RATTLE
SO I'LL JUST BE TAKING THIS BACK...
... DOCTOR.

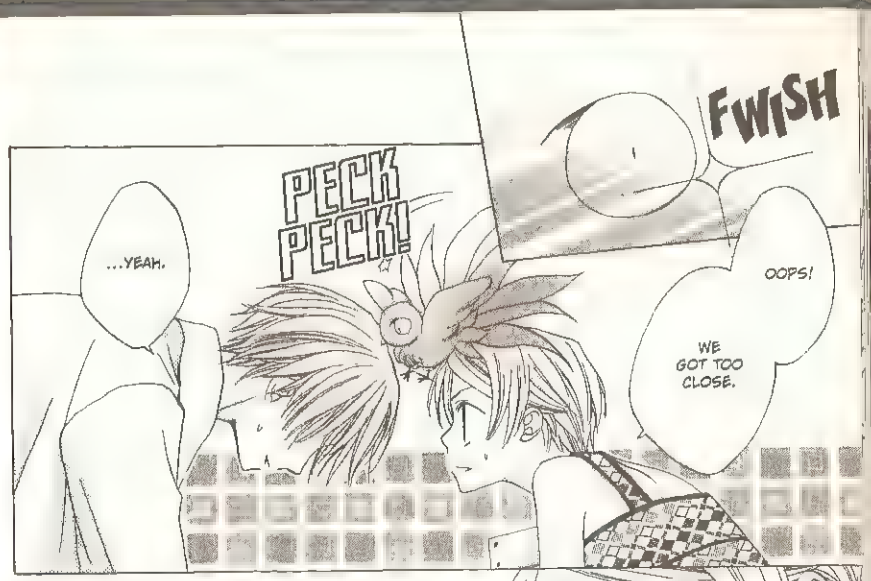
REALLY?
THOSE ARE MATERIALS I NEED TO PRACTICE WITH FOR THE UPCOMING SKILL TEST!
WHERE IS THIS "EDO"?
...AND A NEWSPAPER?
OIL... ... MATCHES ...
I'LL JUST CONFISCATE THIS...
DAILY OPAL
NO, NO, NO!
I'M NOT GONNA BURN ANYTHING DOWN!
GIVE IT BACK!
YOU KNOW THAT ARSON IS A SERIOUS CRIME?
IN THE EDO PERIOD,* ARSONISTS THEMSELVES WOULD BE BURNED AT THE STAKE AS PUNISHMENT...

*EDO PERIOD - HISTORICAL PERIOD IN JAPAN (1603-1867)

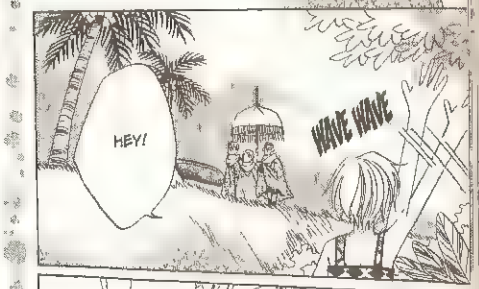
ARE...
ARE YOU THAT SURPRISED ...?
EH? YEAH... I MEAN, NO!
AH!
CRASH!
CELLO, SORRY!
ACK!
WANT ME TO HELP YOU PICK THE STUFF UP?
PLEASE!
FWAP
JUST HOW THE PRINCE IS CUTE...
...IS SOMETHING YOU'LL CATCH ON TO SOONER OR LATER!
RUSTLE
NOW ALL WE NEED TO FIND ARE THE MATCHES...
AH!
PAT...
PAT
OIL...
... CANDLES... A LAMP...
TELL ME WHY THIS IS THE END OF HIS JOURNEY.
I...
I DON'T THINK HE ANNOUNCED THAT...
TUG...
THE BASICS ARE FINE!
RATTLE
I CAN'T REALLY GIVE YOU THE DETAILS...
TUG
TUG
RATTLE
IT'S BECAUSE THE PRINCE IS CUTE.
...FWAP

GO ON, GET OUTTA HERE.
THE RAIN'S STOPPED, SO YOU'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON.
WHAT'S THAT FOR?
FWISH
FWISH
I WAS JUST LEAVING ANYWAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOO ME AWAY.


WHY WERE YOU ANNOYED?
NO, I WASN'T!
YES, YOU WERE!
I WAS NOT ANNOYED!
...NO.
YES, YOU WERE, WEREN'T YOU?
WAIT...
WERE YOU JUST ANNOYED?

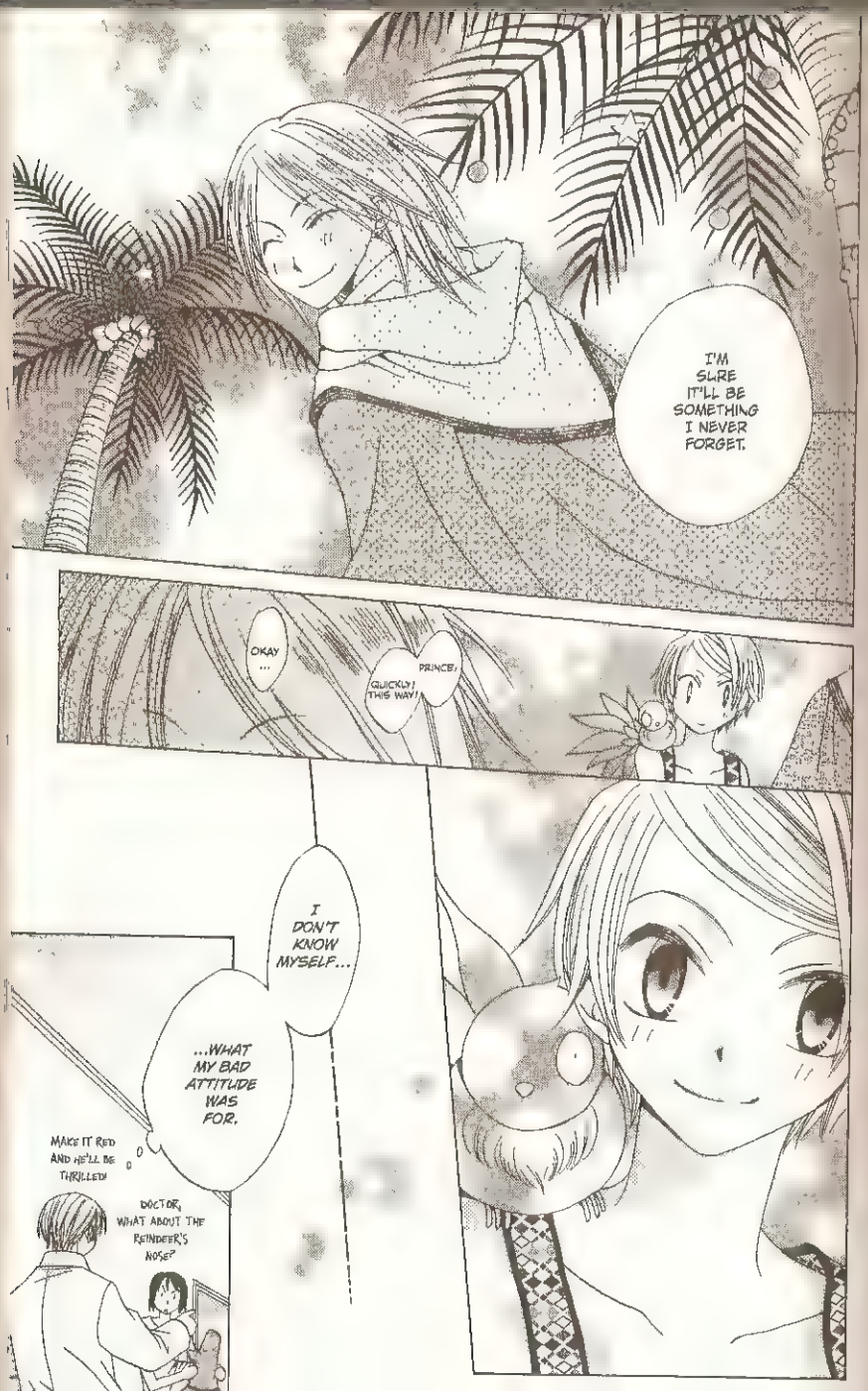

FWISH
PECK PECK!
...YEAH.
OOPS!
WE GOT TOO CLOSE.

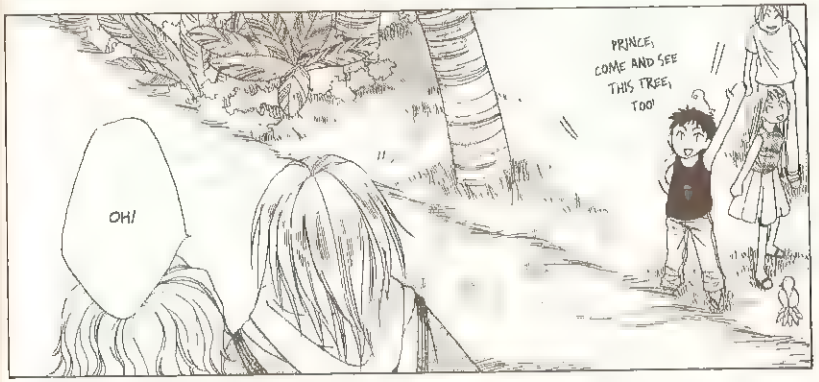
HERE ARE YOUR MATCHES.
THANKS!


HEY!
WAVE WAVE

...THE PRINCE IS A PRINCESS.
SHE'S A GIRL.
REALLY, THE PRINCESS' OLDER BROTHER HAD PLANNED TO COME ON THIS TRIP, BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, HE GOT SICK.
THE PRINCESS WAS PREPARED TO GO IN HIS STEAD...
...BUT A WEDDING HAD ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED BETWEEN HER AND A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY...
SORRY!
OH, I GET IT
GO ON THIS VOYAGE POSING AS OTHELLO.
...AND THAT COUNTRY TOOK A DIM VIEW ABOUT THE IDEA OF A WOMAN GOING OUTSIDE.
SO IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE PRINCESS WOULD GO IN DISGUISE.
I'M IRIE!
MY NAME IS SPENCER!
MY REAL NAME IS MASHURO. ISN'T THAT CUTE?
WITH ALL OF THESE ORNAMENTS, IT'S REALLY BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!
IT'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS I IMAGINED!
EVER SINCE SHE OFFICIALLY BECAME A BRIDE-TO-BE, THE PRINCESS WAS SHUT UP IN THE CASTLE.

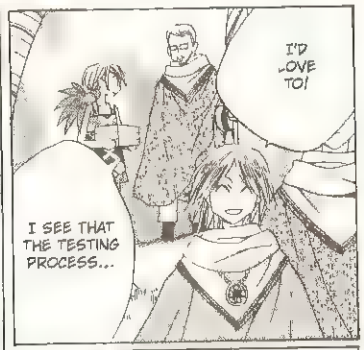
EH?!
SORRY, I...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, PRINCE?!
I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA GO TOGETHER
CE...LO...
ARE YOU GOING TO THE DANCE WITH DR. GWELL?
I FEEL LIKE I CAN DANCE, BUT I CAN'T.
THE REASON IS...
CELLO!
DR. GWELL I HAVE A QUESTION!
SWISH!
...IS WHAT I SHOULD HAVE ASKED.
I WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT MYSELF!
HMM...
...I CAN ONLY REMEMBER THE "WOMAN'S PART"!
THAT'S RIGHT.
ACTUALLY...

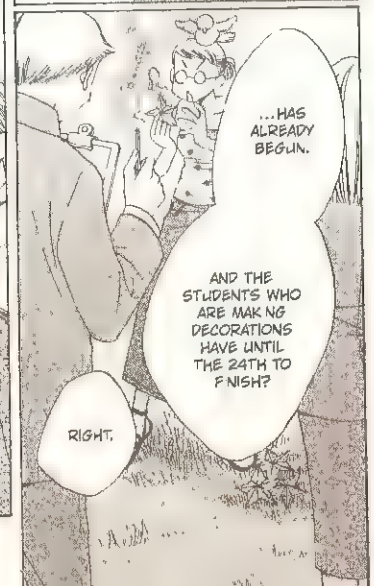

I'M SURE IT'LL BE SOMETHING I NEVER FORGET.
OKAY...
PRINCE, QUICKLY! THIS WAY!
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF...
...WHAT MY BAD ATTITUDE WAS FOR.
MAKE IT RED AND HE'LL BE THRILLED!
DOCTOR, WHAT ABOUT THE REINDEER'S NOSE?

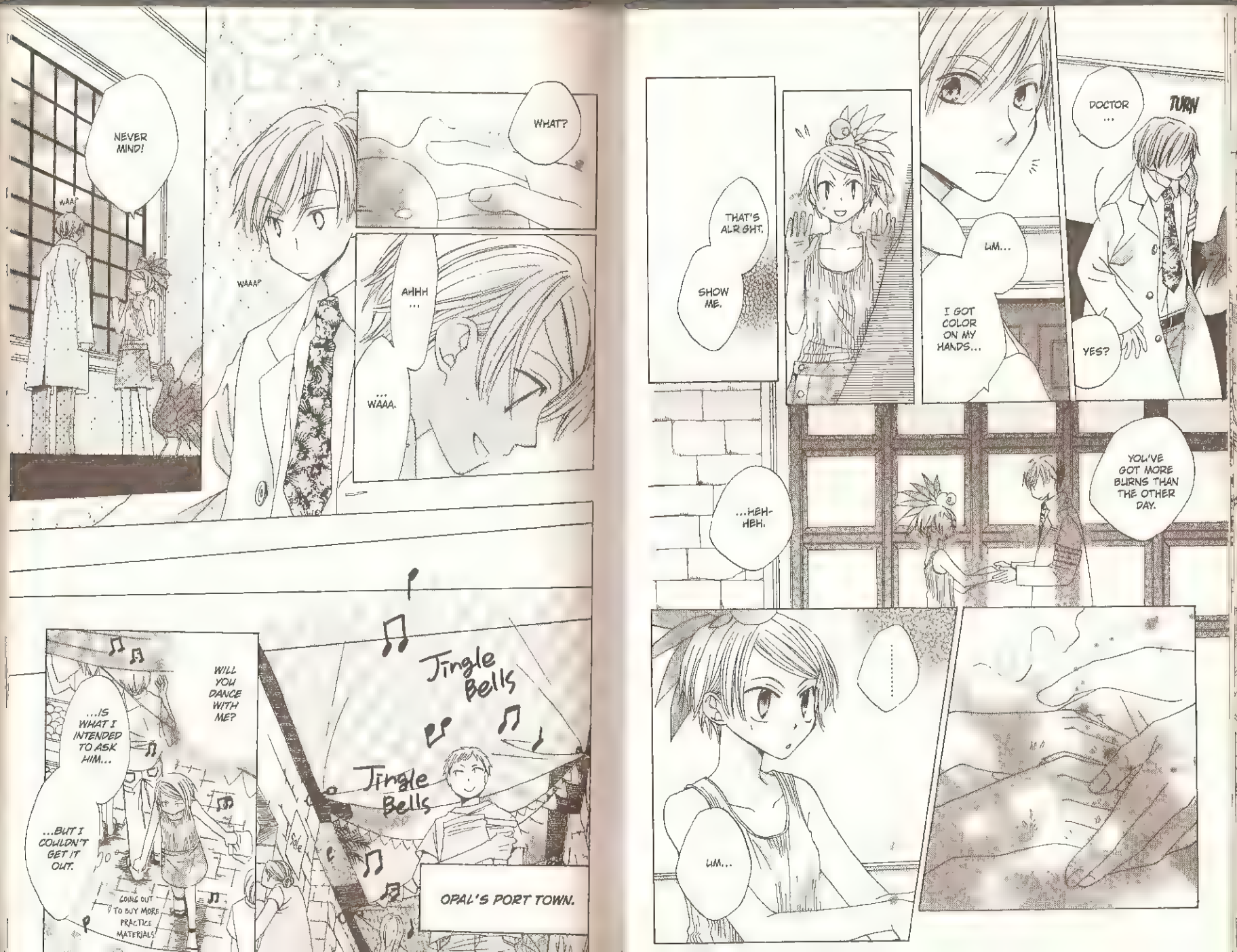

OH!
PRINCE, COME AND SEE THIS TREE, TOO!

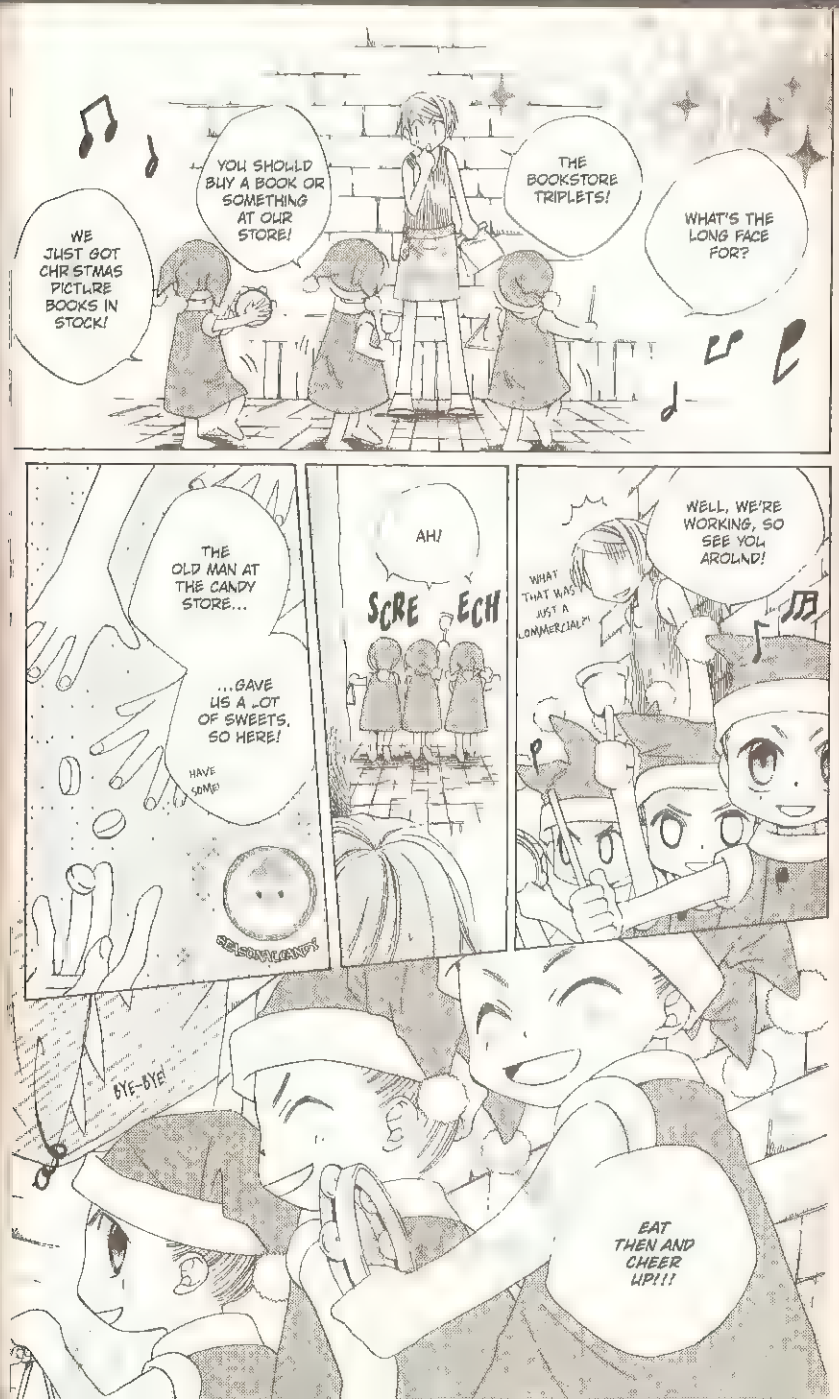
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT!
I BET YOUR PRESENTATION WILL LIVEN UP THE PROCEEDINGS EVEN MORE!
UL?! NOW I'M REALLY UNDER THE GUN!

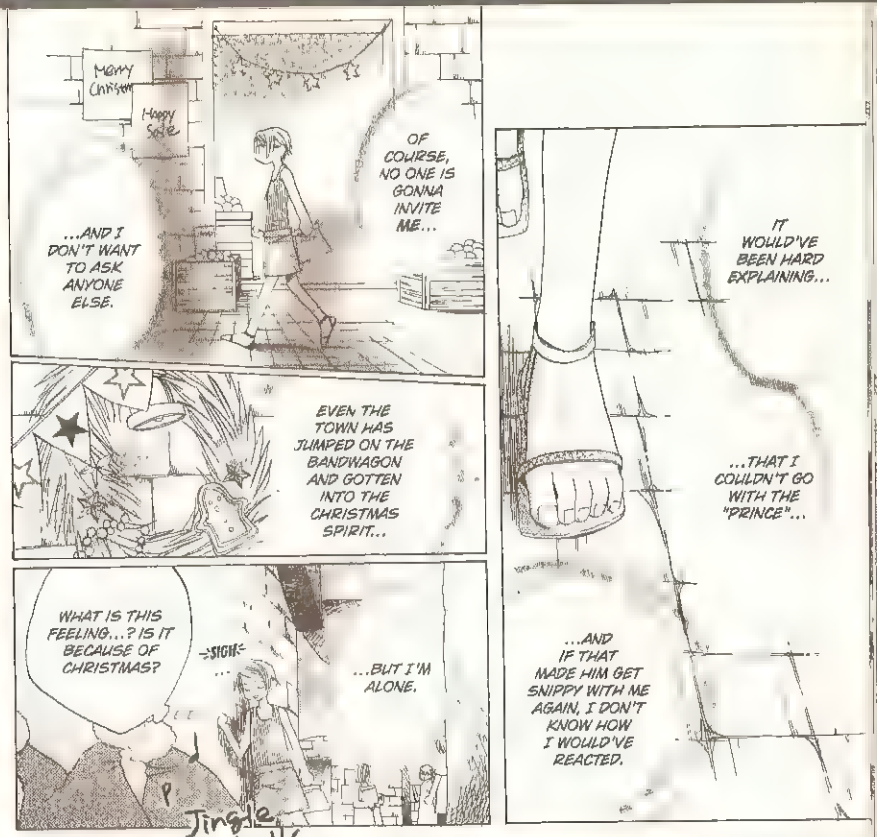
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE TO BE JUDGED ON THE 24TH...
...FOR ENTERTAINMENT CREATED FOR THE PARTY.
THAT'S THE IDEA, ANYWAY.

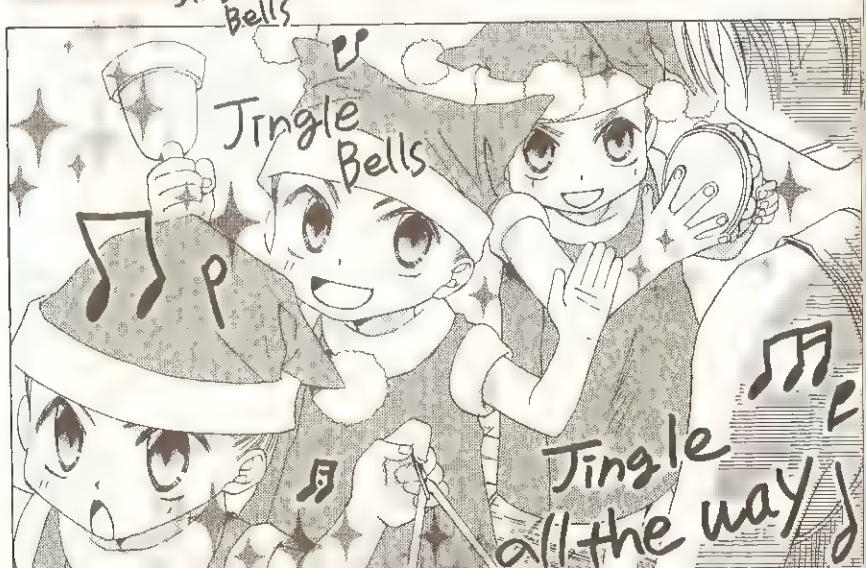

I'D LOVE TO!
I SEE THAT THE TESTING PROCESS...


...HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
AND THE STUDENTS WHO ARE MAKING DECORATIONS HAVE UNTIL THE 24TH TO FINISH?
RIGHT.

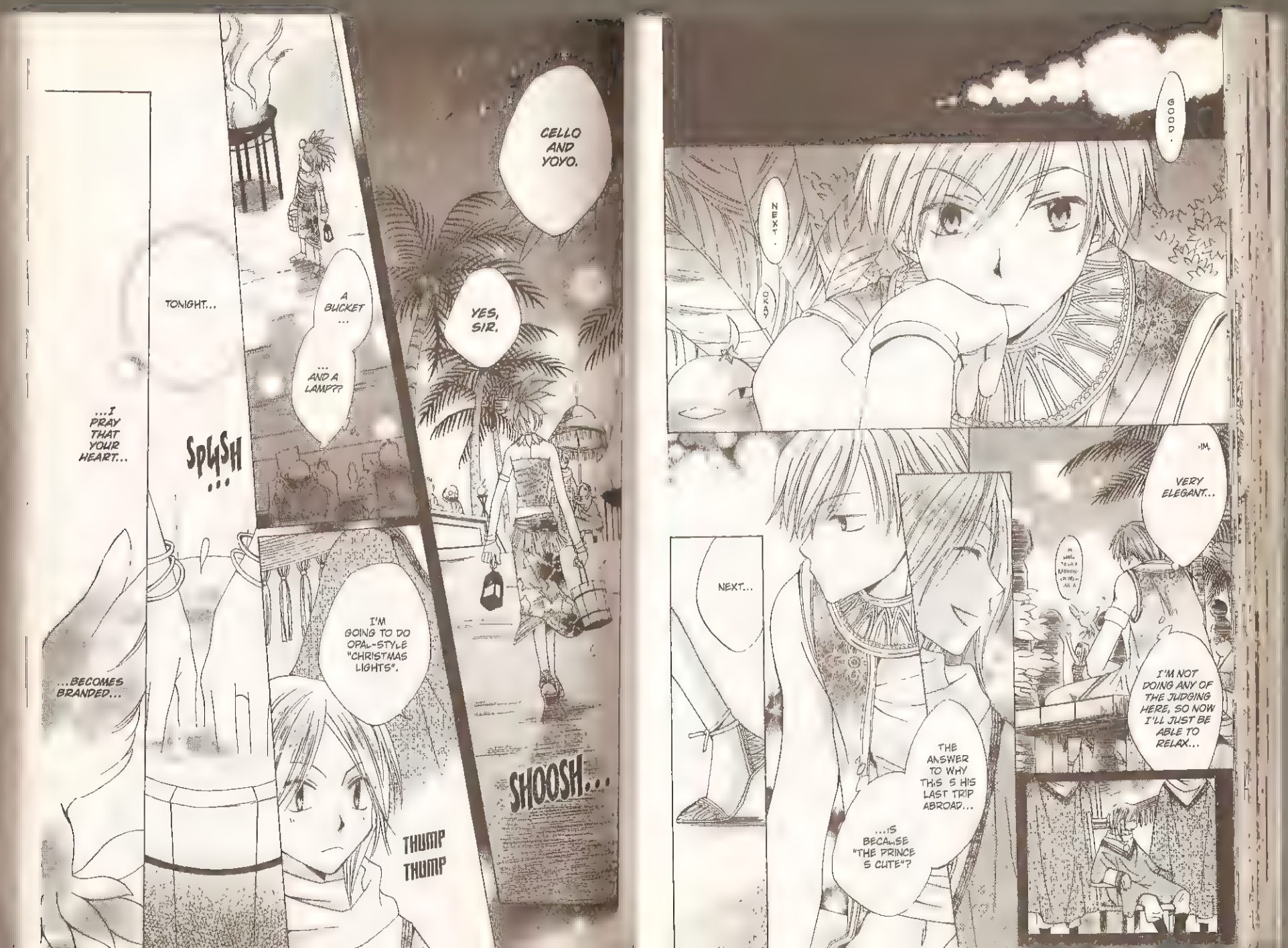

NEVER MIND!
WAA?
WHAT?
WAAA?
AHHH...
...WAAA.
THAT'S ALRIGHT.
SHOW ME.
UM...
I GOT COLOR ON MY HANDS...
DOCTOR...
TURN
YES?
YOU'VE GOT MORE BURNS THAN THE OTHER DAY.
...HEH-HEH.
.....
UM...
...IS WHAT I INTENDED TO ASK HIM...
WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME?
...BUT I COULDN'T GET IT OUT.
GOING OUT TO BUY MORE PRACTICE MATERIALS!
Jingle Bells
Jingle Bells
OPAL'S PORT TOWN.


WE JUST GOT CHRISTMAS PICTURE BOOKS IN STOCK!
YOU SHOULD BUY A BOOK OR SOMETHING AT OUR STORE!
THE BOOKSTORE TRIPLETS!
WHAT'S THE LONG FACE FOR?
THE OLD MAN AT THE CANDY STORE...
...GAVE US A LOT OF SWEETS, SO HERE!
HAVE SOME!
SCRE ECH
AH!
WELL, WE'RE WORKING, SO SEE YOU AROUND!
WHAT THAT WAS JUST A COMMERCIAL?!
BYE-BYE!
EAT THEN AND CHEER UP!!!

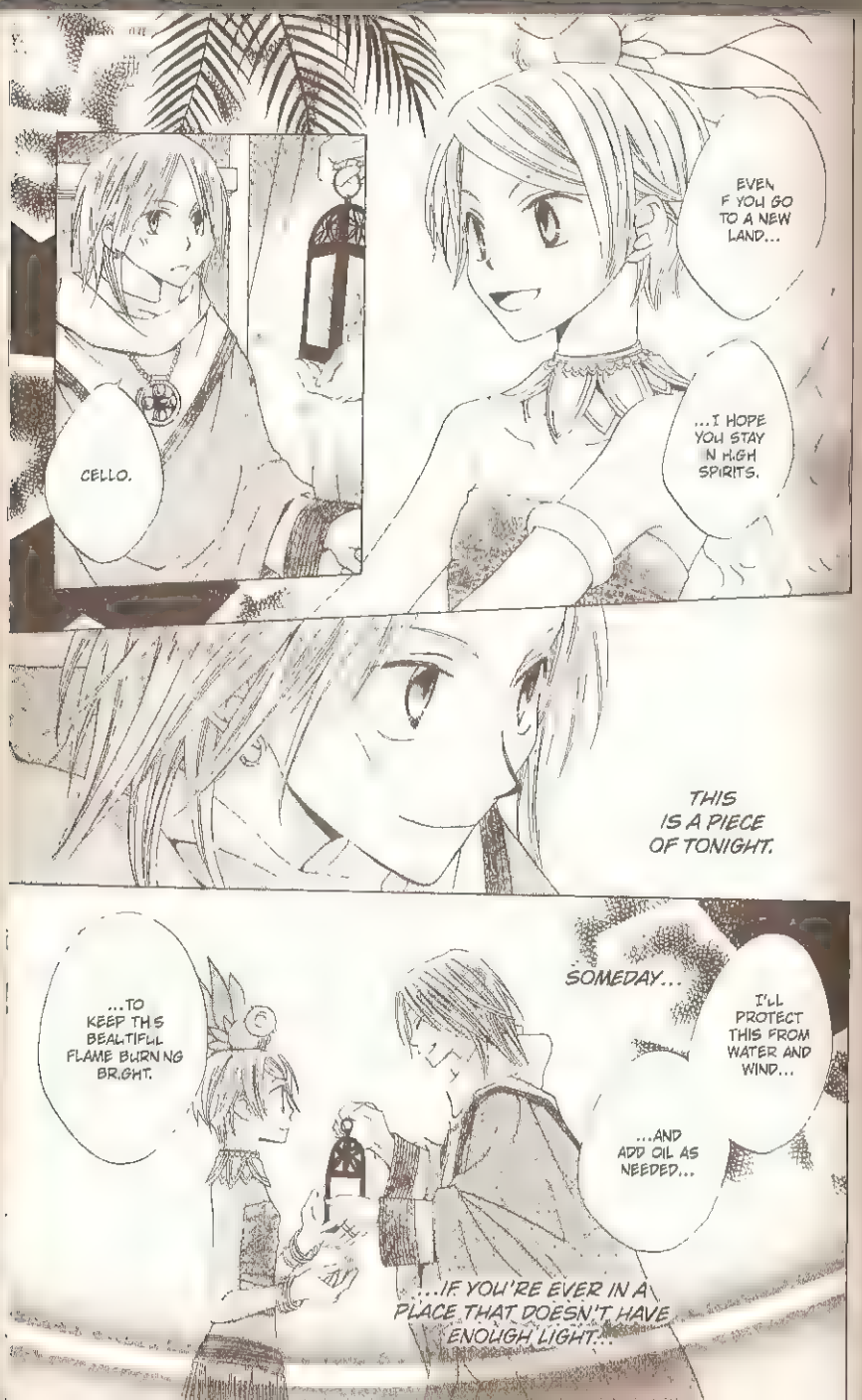

Merry Christmas
Happy Sale
...AND I DON'T WANT TO ASK ANYONE ELSE.
OF COURSE, NO ONE IS GONNA INVITE ME...
EVEN THE TOWN HAS JUMPED ON THE BANDWAGON AND GOTTEN INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT...
WHAT IS THIS FEELING...? IS IT BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS?
-SIGH-
...BUT I'M ALONE.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN HARD EXPLAINING...
...THAT I COULDN'T GO WITH THE "PRINCE"...
...AND IF THAT MADE HIM GET SNIPPY WITH ME AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW HOW I WOULD'VE REACTED.


Jingle Bells
Jingle Bells
Jingle all the way

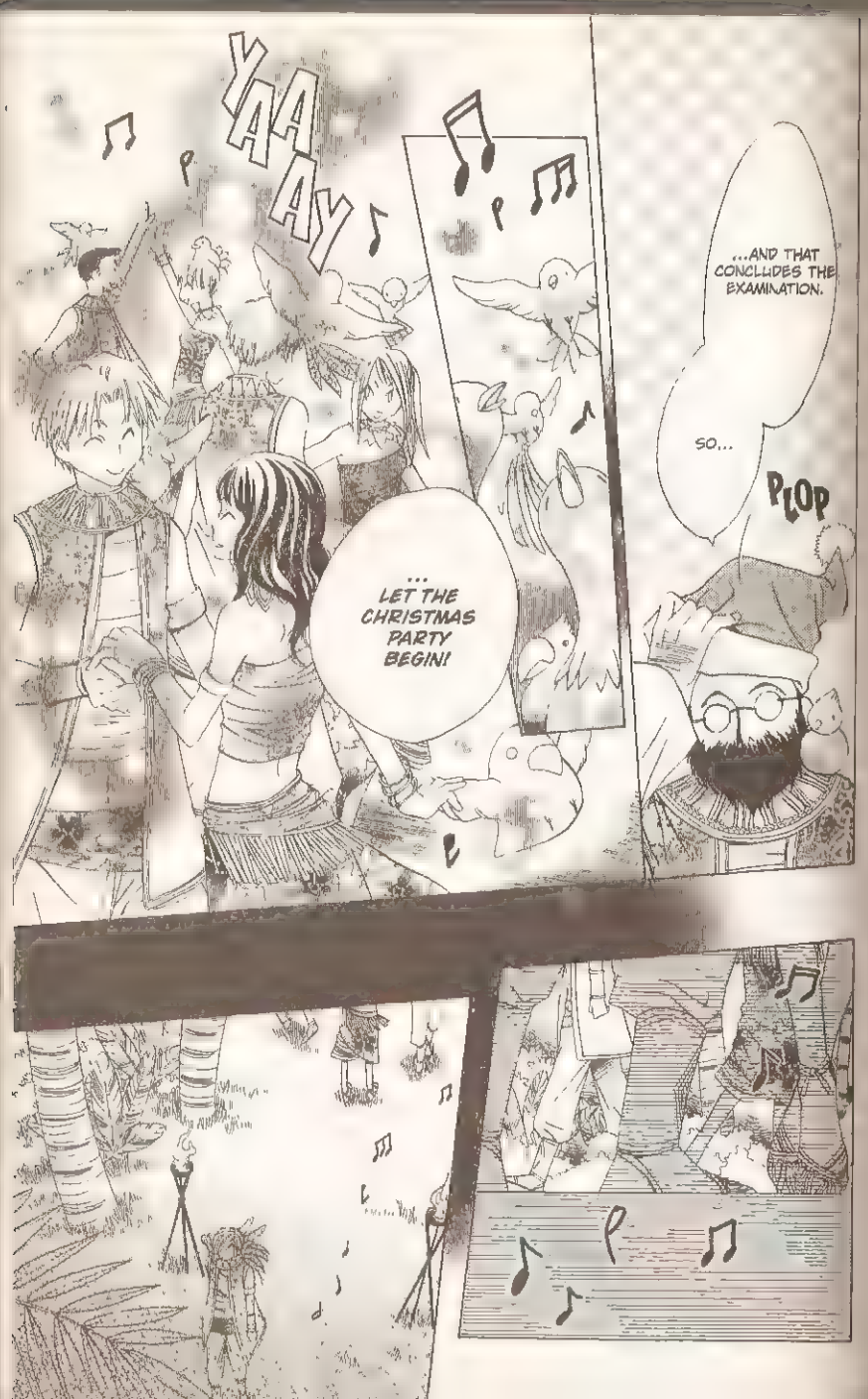
I AM COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU TO ENSURE THAT PRINCE OTHELLO ENJOYS HIMSELF TONIGHT.
SO THE DANCE IS SECONDARY ...
YEAH!
FORMAL WEAR N OPAL
OUR FIRST STUDENT...
THEY'RE RIGHT.
AND I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE THE PRINCE.
AND NOW, THE END-OF-TERM PRACTICAL SKILL EXAMINATION.
DECEMBER 24TH.


CELLO AND YOYO.
YES, SIR.
A BUCKET...
...AND A LAMP??
TONIGHT...
...I PRAY THAT YOUR HEART...
SPLISH
I'M GOING TO DO OPAL-STYLE "CHRISTMAS LIGHTS".
...BECOMES BRANDED...
THUMP THUMP
SHOOSH...
GOOD.
NEXT.
OKAY.
HM.
VERY ELEGANT...
I'M NOT DOING ANY OF THE JUDGING HERE, SO NOW I'LL JUST BE ABLE TO RELAX...
NEXT...
THE ANSWER TO WHY THIS IS HIS LAST TRIP ABROAD...
...IS BECAUSE "THE PRINCE IS CUTE"?

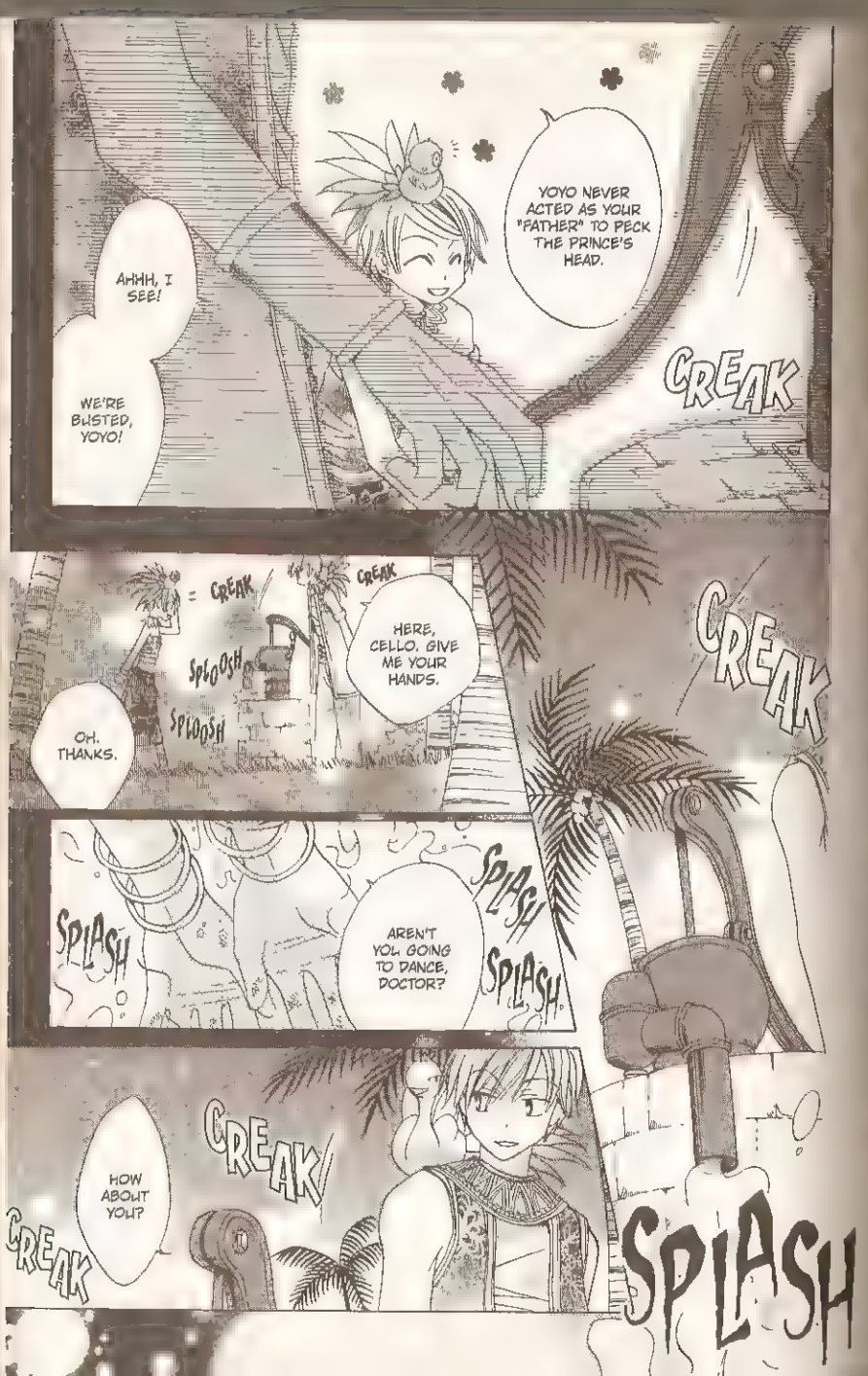
WOW..
THE COLOR OF THE FLAMES IS...
...BECOMING THE COLOR OF YOYO'S FEATHERS.
ROAR
...WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

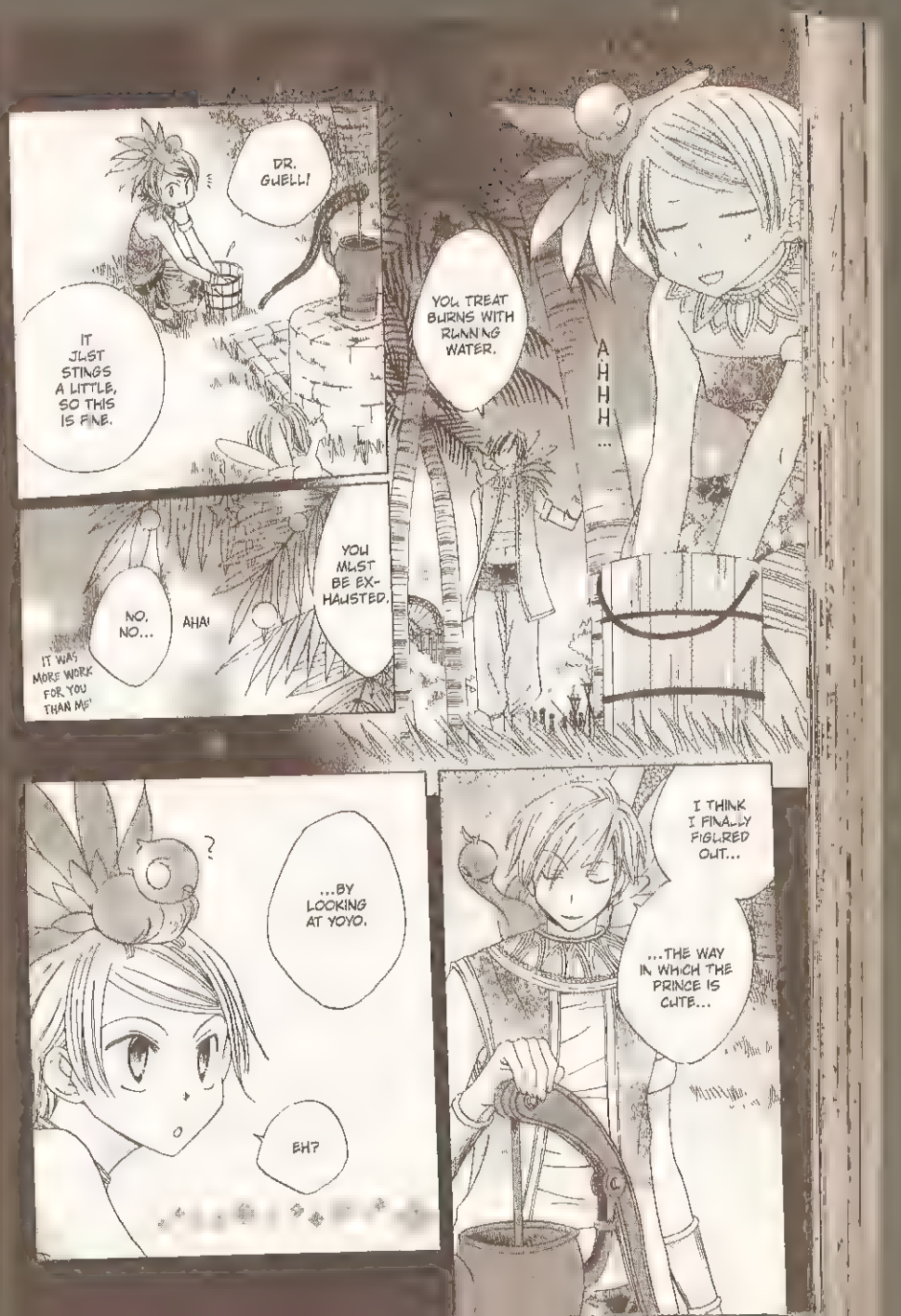

EVEN IF YOU GO TO A NEW LAND...
...I HOPE YOU STAY IN HIGH SPIRITS.
CELLO.
THIS IS A PIECE OF TONIGHT.
...TO KEEP THIS BEAUTIFUL FLAME BURNING BRIGHT.
SOMEDAY...
I'LL PROTECT THIS FROM WATER AND WIND...
...AND ADD OIL AS NEEDED...
...IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PLACE THAT DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH LIGHT...

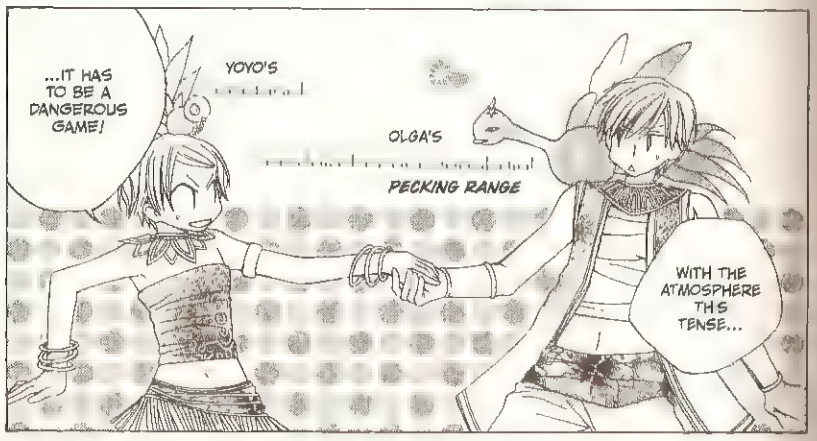
FSST
...A PERFECT SCORE.
BEAUTIFUL.
NO OBJECTIONS HERE.
I'M GIVING YOU...
CLICK...
CLAK
...AS A MEMENTO?
PRINCE ...
WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS, A PIECE OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS...


YAAAAY
...AND THAT CONCLUDES THE EXAMINATION.
SO...
PLOP
...LET THE CHRISTMAS PARTY BEGIN!

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.
...I HOPE THIS BECOMES A MEMORY THAT STARTS A BRIGHT FIRE IN YOUR HEART.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS
.....
...OH.

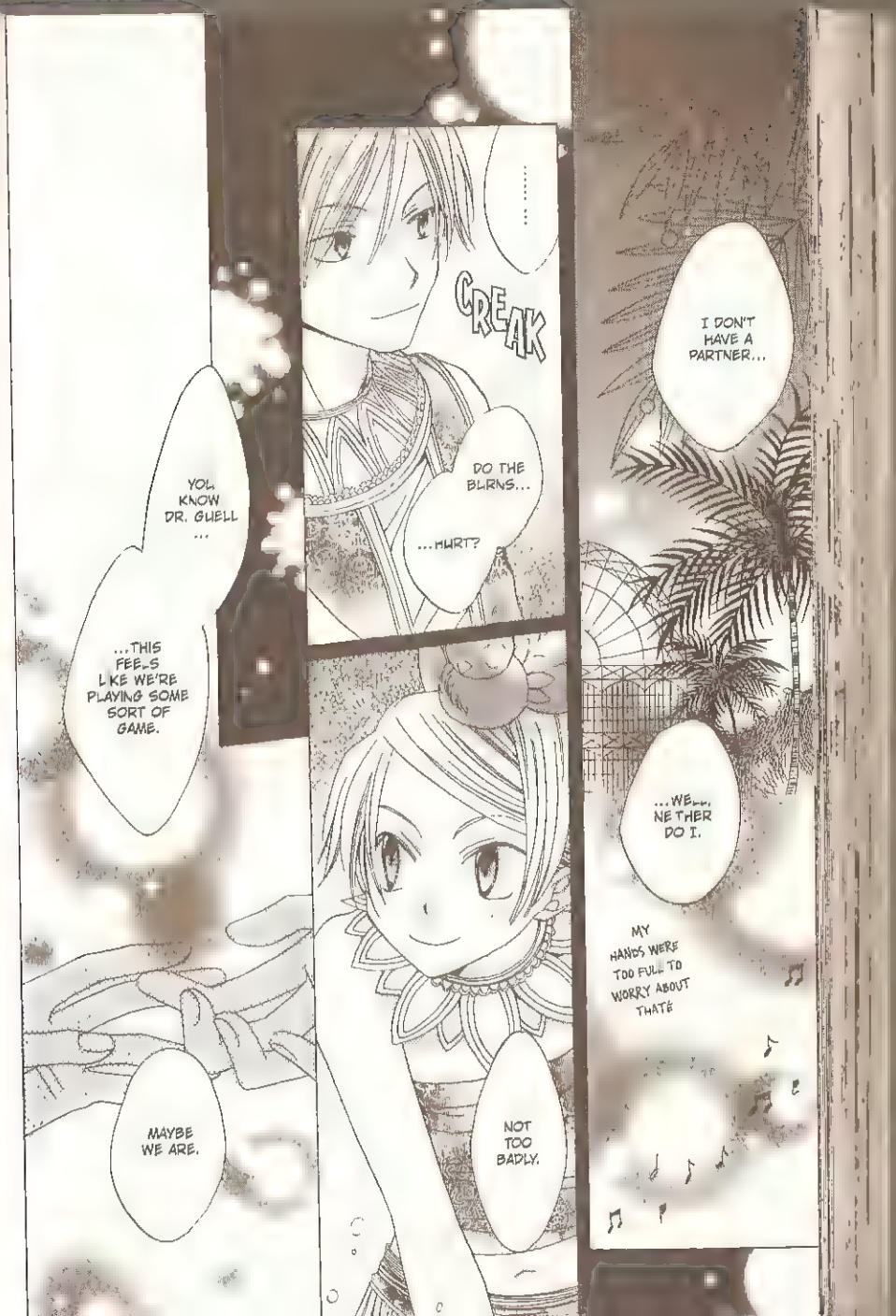

YOYO NEVER ACTED AS YOUR "FATHER" TO PECK THE PRINCE'S HEAD.
AHHH, I SEE!
WE'RE BUSTED, YOYO!
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
HERE, CELLO. GIVE ME YOUR HANDS.
OH. THANKS.
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DANCE, DOCTOR?
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
HOW ABOUT YOU?
SPLASH


DR. GUELL!
IT JUST STINGS A LITTLE, SO THIS IS FINE.
YOU TREAT BURNS WITH RUNNING WATER.
AHHH...
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
NO, NO...
AHA!
IT WAS MORE WORK FOR YOU THAN ME!
?
...BY LOOKING AT YOYO.
EH?
I THINK I FINALLY FIGURED OUT...
...THE WAY IN WHICH THE PRINCE IS CUTE...



THIS LIGHT WHICH HAS NO NAME...

CHAPTER 4: THE END


.....
CREAK
DO THE BURNS...
...HURT?
YOU KNOW DR. GUELL ...
...THIS FEELS LIKE WE'RE PLAYING SOME SORT OF GAME.
MAYBE WE ARE.
NOT TOO BADLY.
I DON'T HAVE A PARTNER...
...WELL, NEITHER DO I.
MY HANDS WERE TOO FULL TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!

EPISODE 5

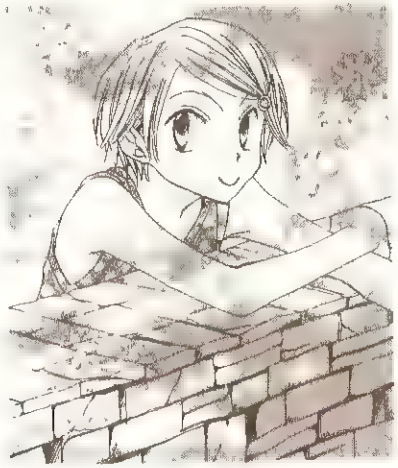
じゅうにひそく

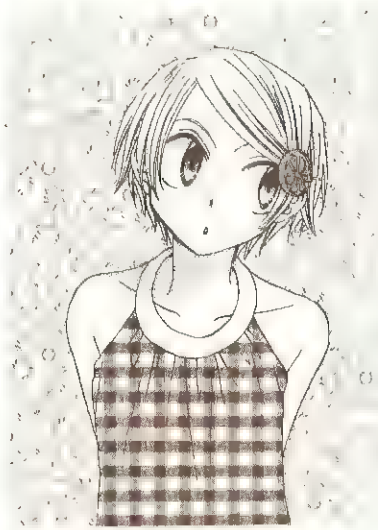
十二秋色のパレット

The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

Episode 5 Preview Cut ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

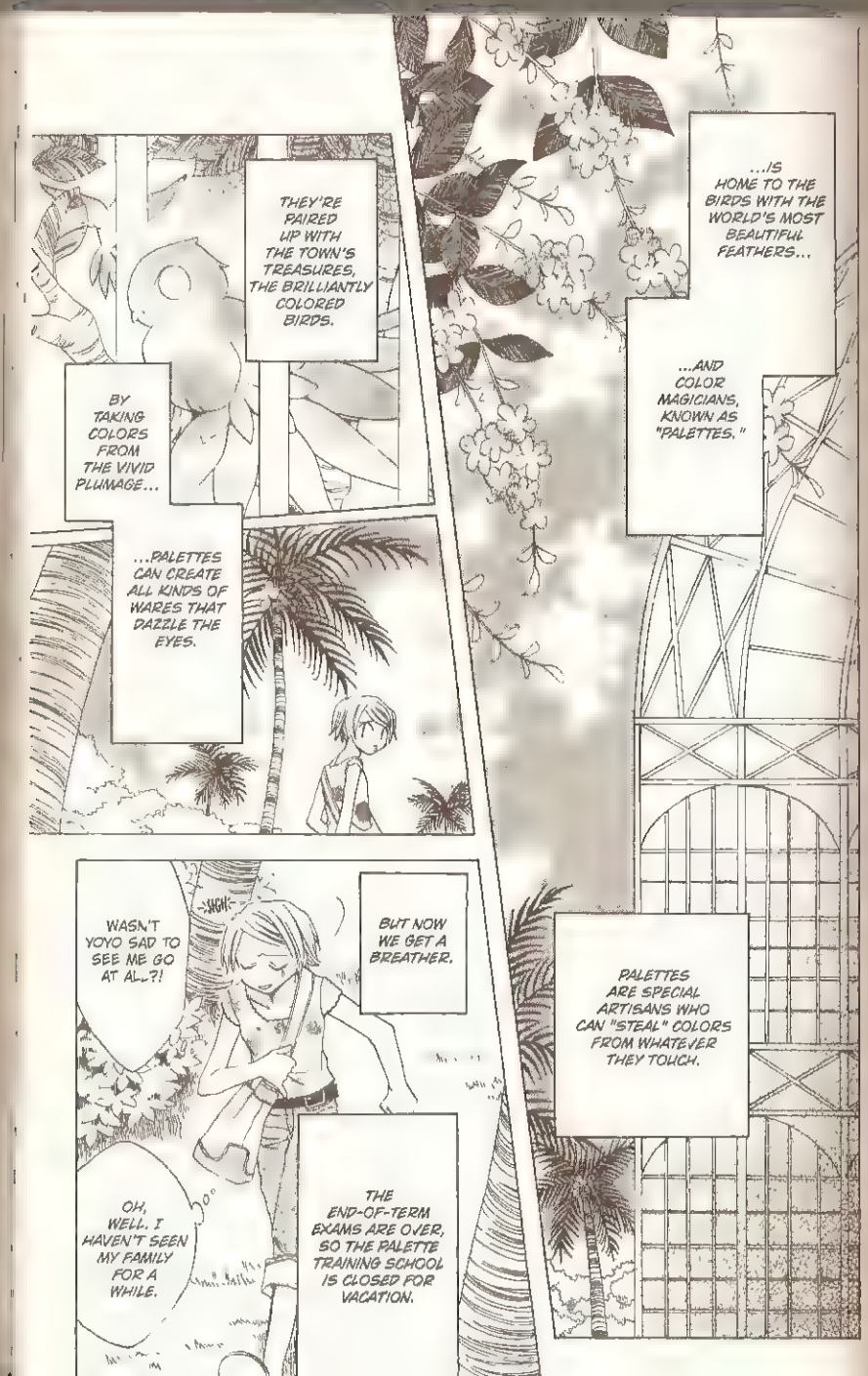
It kind of looks like she's in the bathtub here.



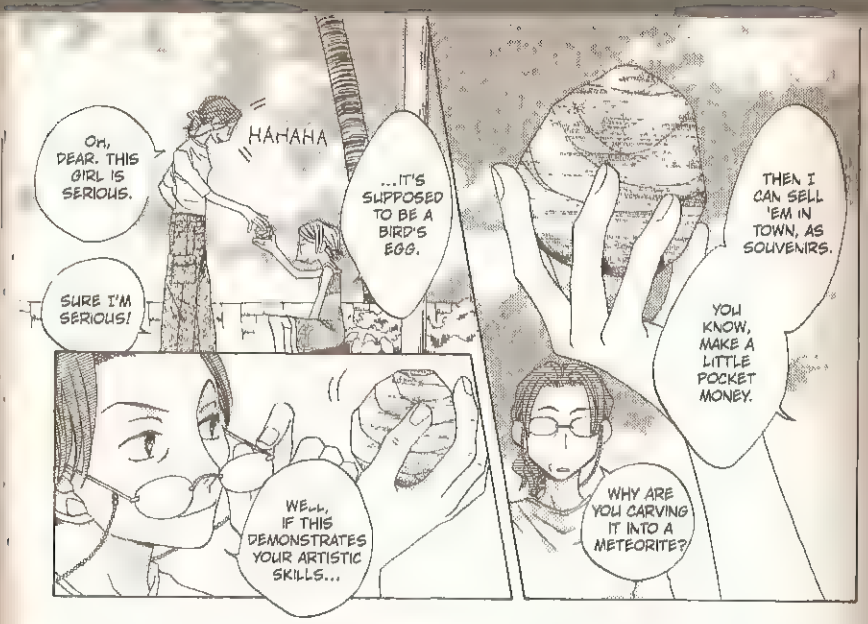


★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Episode 6 Preview Cut

I really like this drawing. Refreshing, with the citrus in her hair.

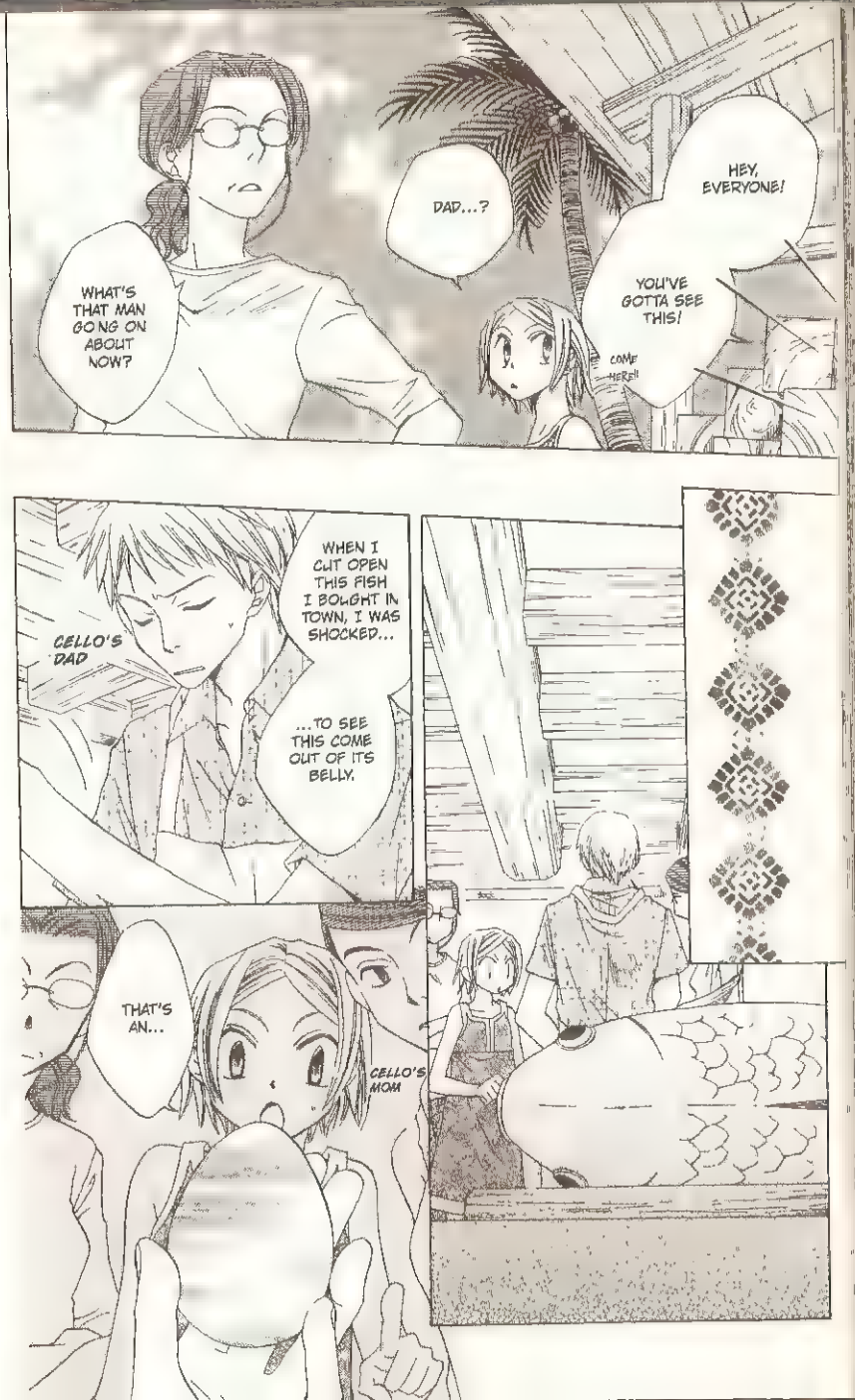

...IS HOME TO THE BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
THEY'RE PAIRED UP WITH THE TOWN'S TREASURES, THE BRILLIANTLY COLORED BIRDS.
BY TAKING COLORS FROM THE VIVID PLUMAGE...
...PALETTES CAN CREATE ALL KINDS OF WARES THAT DAZZLE THE EYES.
PALETTES ARE SPECIAL ARTISANS WHO CAN "STEAL" COLORS FROM WHATEVER THEY TOUCH.
WASN'T YOYO SAD TO SEE ME GO AT ALL?!
-SIGH-
BUT NOW WE GET A BREATHER.
OH, WELL. I HAVEN'T SEEN MY FAMILY FOR A WHILE.
THE END-OF-TERM EXAMS ARE OVER, SO THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR VACATION.

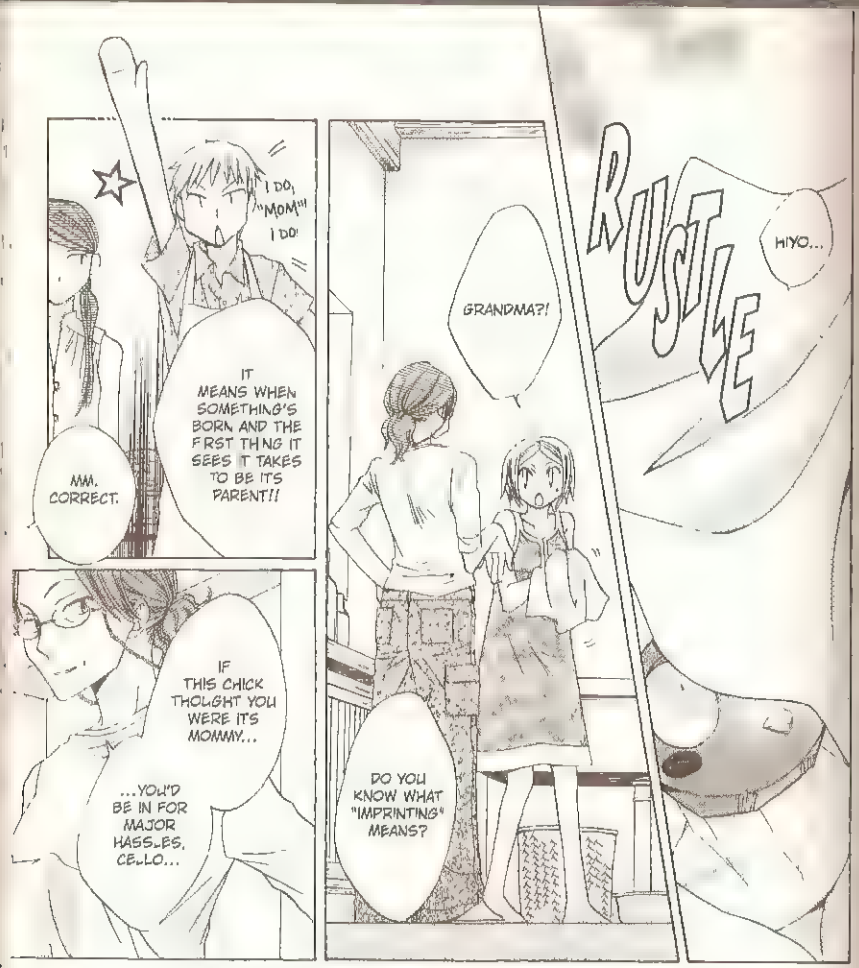
DON'T WORRY, YOYO, VACATION WILL BE OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SEE ME BEFORE THE NEW TERM STARTS, NO CRYING!
REMEMBER TO LISTEN TO THE AVIARY KEEPERS...
...AND BE A GOOD BOY!
YOU HAVE TO GO HOME LIKE ALL THE OTHER STUDENTS.
YOYO!
OKAY, OKAY!
YOUR BIRD GETS IT. NOW LEAVE THE REST TO US.
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
DON'T BE A FUSSY EATER...
HEY
YOU TRYING TO GIVE ME THE BRUSH-OFF?!

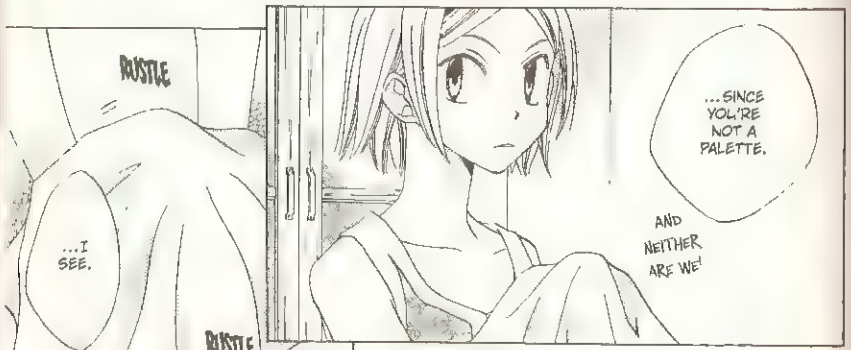

AND WITH THAT...
...WE'LL GO BACK...
HE WAS SO CUTE...
LITTLE YOYO.
OF COURSE, HE'S STILL US
ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOYO WOULD ALWAYS TRAIL RIGHT BEHIND ME.
...TO THREE YEARS AGO.
CELLO 14 YEARS OLD
GRANDMA!
I GOT A FEW SCRAPS OF LUMBER, SO I THOUGHT I'D DO A LITTLE HANDICRAFTING.
CELLO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OH, DEAR. THIS GIRL IS SERIOUS.
HAHAHA
SURE I'M SERIOUS!
...IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A BIRD'S EGG.
THEN I CAN SELL 'EM IN TOWN, AS SOUVENIRS.
YOU KNOW, MAKE A LITTLE POCKET MONEY.
WELL, IF THIS DEMONSTRATES YOUR ARTISTIC SKILLS...
WHY ARE YOU CARVING IT INTO A METEORITE?
SO WHEN ALL THAT SKILLFULNESS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HANDED DOWN TO ME, IT MUST'VE BEEN DROPPED SOMEWHERE...
GLOOMY
IF IT WAS DROPPED, I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
GRANDPA, REST HIS SOUL, WAS A CARPENTER ...
...SAME AS YOU, GRANDMA ...
...SAME AS MY DAD.
MOM, YOUR DAUGHTER, IS A DESIGNER.
...AND YOU PLAN TO TAKE IT TO TOWN TO SELL...
...I THINK YOU SHOULD CLIMB A PALM TREE AND PICK A COUPLE OF COCONUTS ALONG THE WAY. YOU'LL PROBABLY MAKE MORE SELLING THOSE AT A JUICE STAND.
YOU DO LIKE HIGH PLACES!
HLMPH!

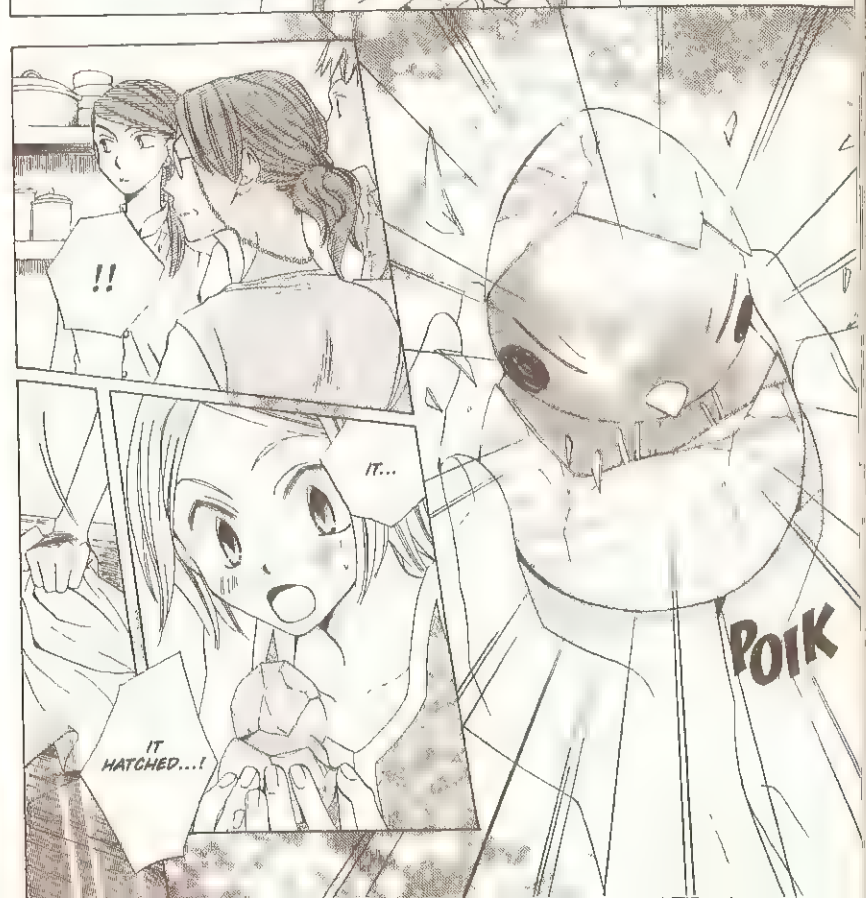
THE EGG MUST HAVE FALLEN OUT OF THE SANCTUARY BY ACCIDENT AND LANDED IN THE SEA...
...WHERE IT WAS GOBBLED UP BY A FISH.
TWEET
WOW!
EXACTLY, CELLO!
THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT DISCOVERY SINCE DINOSAUR BONES! PROOF THAT FISH ALSO GIVE BIRTH TO BIRD EGGS!
IT'S SCARY HOW SIMPLE YOU TWO ARE.
GLAD I DIDN'T TRY TO SELL MY "METEORITE" ...
MMM...
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS DIFFERENT THAN THE REPLICAS YOU CAN BUY AT SOUVENIR SHOPS IN TOWN.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE REAL THING.
...
TAP
...
TAP
BUT WHICHEVER THE CASE, WE HAVE TO TAKE IT BACK TO THE SANCTUARY.
GOOD QUESTION.
I WONDER IF THE BIRD INSIDE IS STILL OKAY.


WHAT'S THAT MAN GOING ON ABOUT NOW?
DAD...?
HEY, EVERYONE!
YOU'VE GOTTA SEE THIS!
COME HERE!!
CELLO'S DAD
WHEN I CUT OPEN THIS FISH I BOUGHT IN TOWN, I WAS SHOCKED...
...TO SEE THIS COME OUT OF ITS BELLY.
THAT'S AN...
CELLO'S MOM


I DO, "MOM"!!! I DO!
IT MEANS WHEN SOMETHING'S BORN AND THE FIRST THING IT SEES IT TAKES TO BE ITS PARENT!!
MM. CORRECT.
IF THIS CHICK THOUGHT YOU WERE ITS MOMMY...
...YOU'D BE IN FOR MAJOR HASS-ES, CE-LO...
RUSTLE
HIYO...
GRANDMA?!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT "IMPRINTING" MEANS?


RUSTLE
...I SEE.
RUSTLE
...SINCE YOU'RE NOT A PALETTE.
AND NEITHER ARE WE!

...THAT OPAL'S BIRDS CAN ONLY BE HANDLED BY PALETTES.
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS WE DO...


!!
IT...
IT HATCHED...!
POIK

4.

ABOUT PALM TREES... A LONG TIME AGO, I HAD A FOLIAGE PLANT CALLED A "PALM TREE TABLE" IN MY ROOM ONCE IN A WHILE, I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT SOME SUNLIGHT. SO ONE DAY, IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER, I PUT IT OUTSIDE. WELL, BY THE END OF THE DAY, SOME OF IT'S LEAVES HAD BEEN BURNT. WHEN I CHECKED OUT INFO ON THE PLANT LATER, I DISCOVERED THAT THIS TYPE OF PLANT LIKES BEING IN THE SHADE ON SUNNY DAYS. AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD'VE ALWAYS LOVED BEING IN THE SUN, HAVING "PALM TREE" IN ITS NAME, YOU KNOW. THAT PLANT WITHERED AWAY LONG AGO DUE TO MY NEGLIGENCE AND SEVERAL OTHER TYPES OF PLANTS HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME FATE UNDER MY STEWARDSHIP, BUT FOR SOME REASON, MY PACHIRA IS THRIVING. IT'S A REALLY RESILIENT PLANT. MAYBE THAT'S WHY I OFTEN SEE THEM AT DENTIST'S OFFICES AND PLACES LIKE THAT.

...ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY BECOME PALETTES.

FOR MOST, IT'S JUST A DREAM.

IT'LL ONLY EVER BE JUST A DREAM.

DON'T WORRY, HE'S IN GOOD HANDS.

TAKE CARE, LITTLE BIRD.

THEN COME INTO THE SANCTUARY.

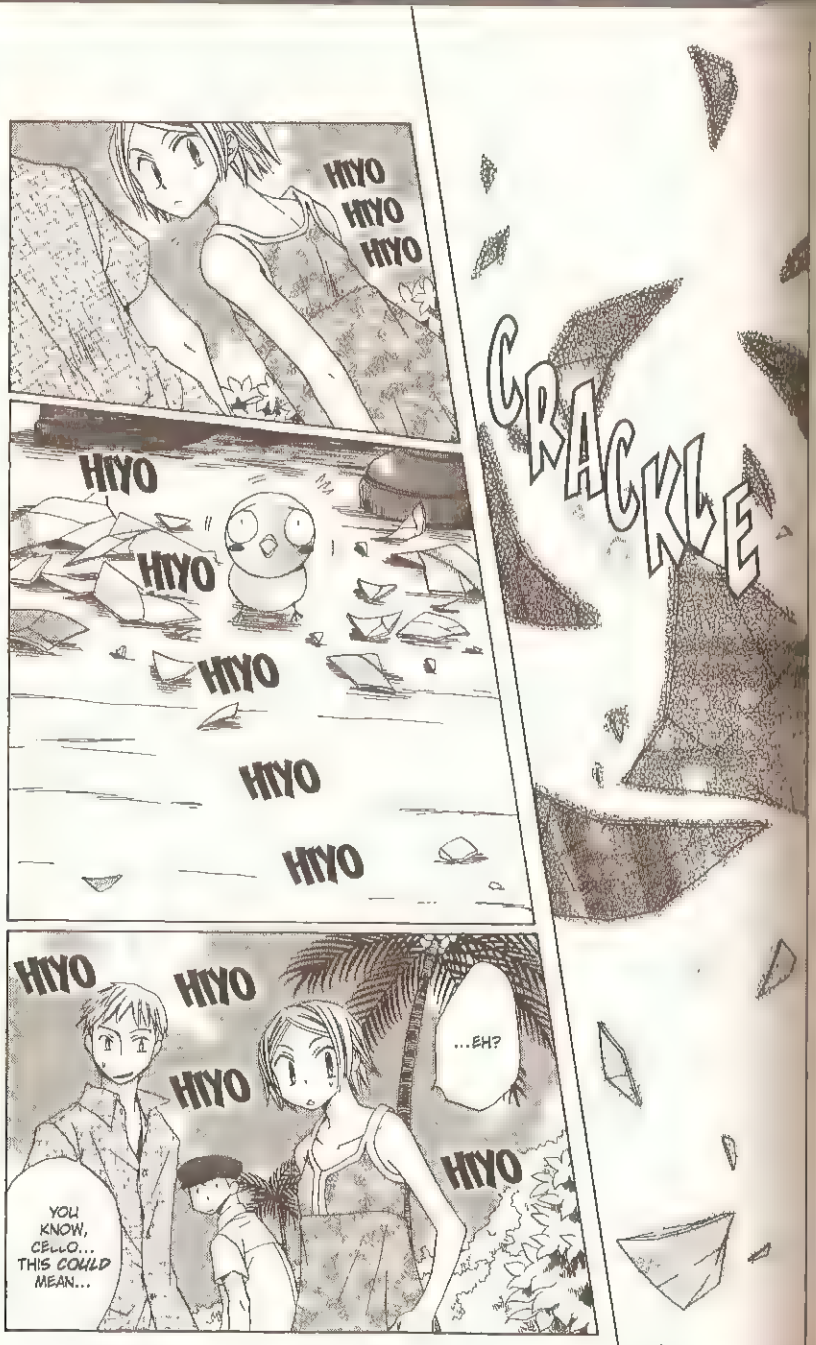
...AND SO, WE BROUGHT IT HERE.

FOR THE CHILDREN OF OPAL, PALETTES ARE A DREAM JOB.

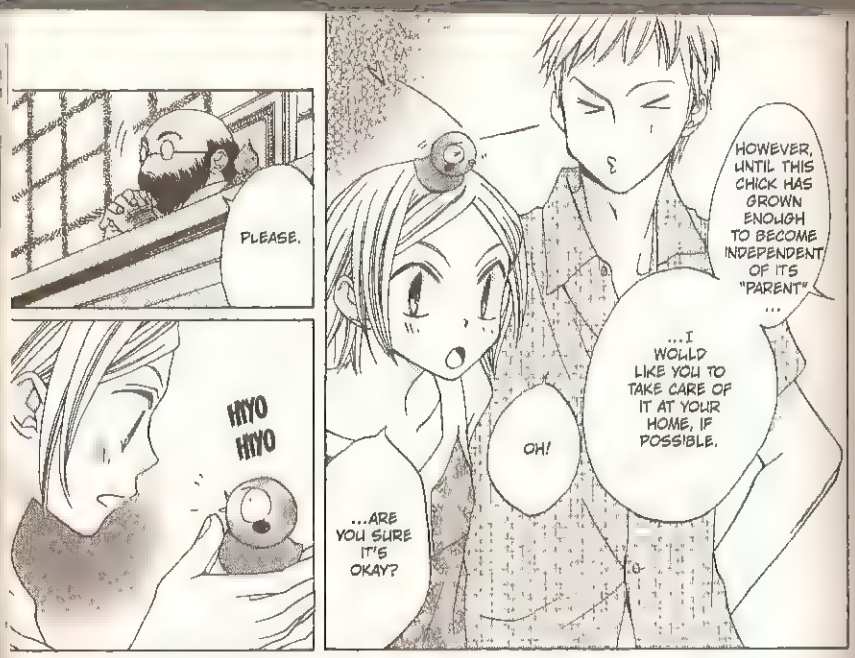
BEAUTIFUL BIRDS...

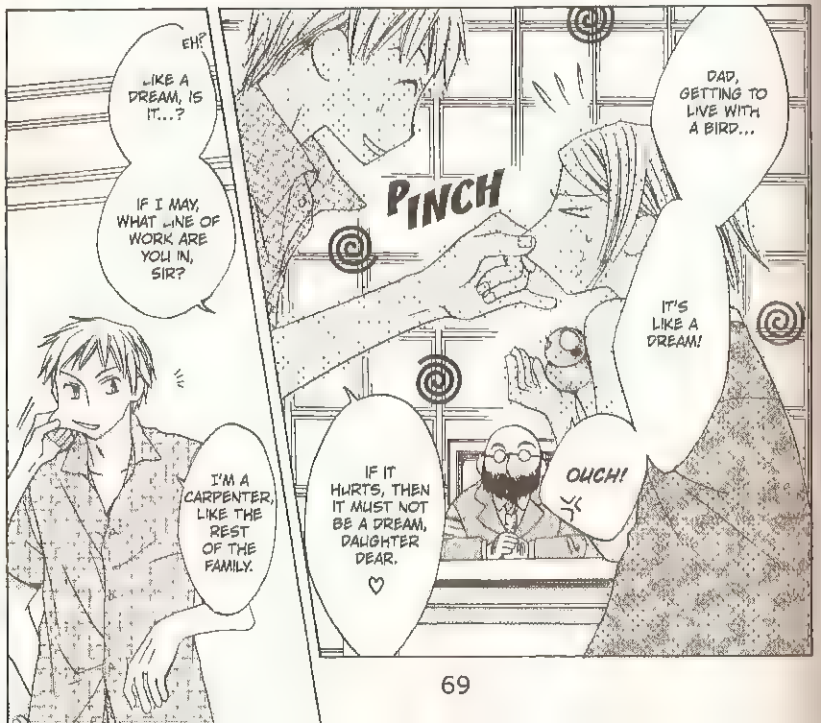
BEAUTIFUL ART...

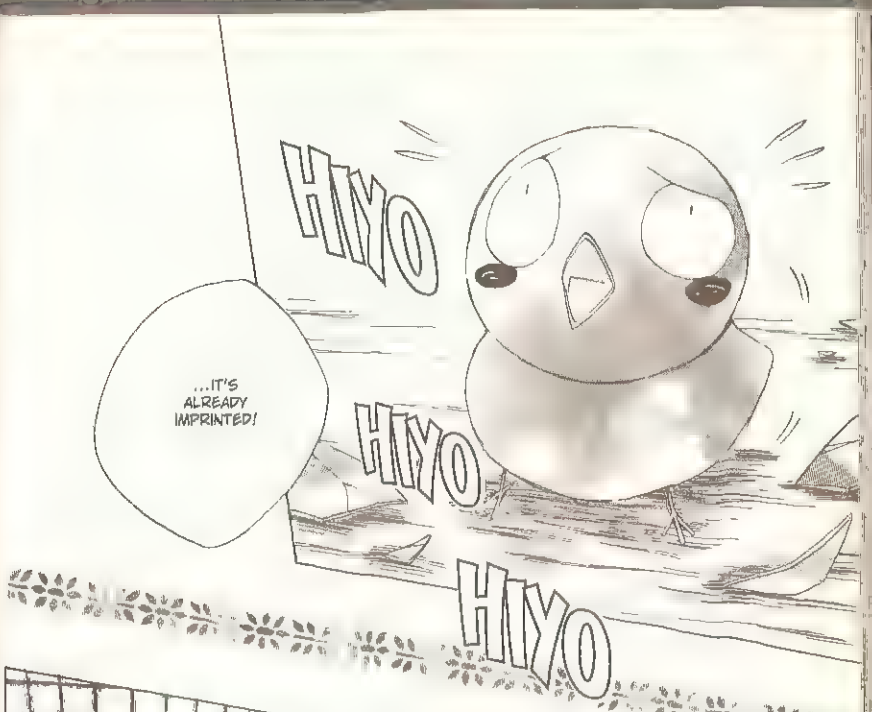
BUT...


HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
...EH?
YOU KNOW, CELLO... THIS COULD MEAN...
CRACKLE

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
MM?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CRACK
ROLL
WHAT THE--?!
EH?!
CRACKLE
SPAK

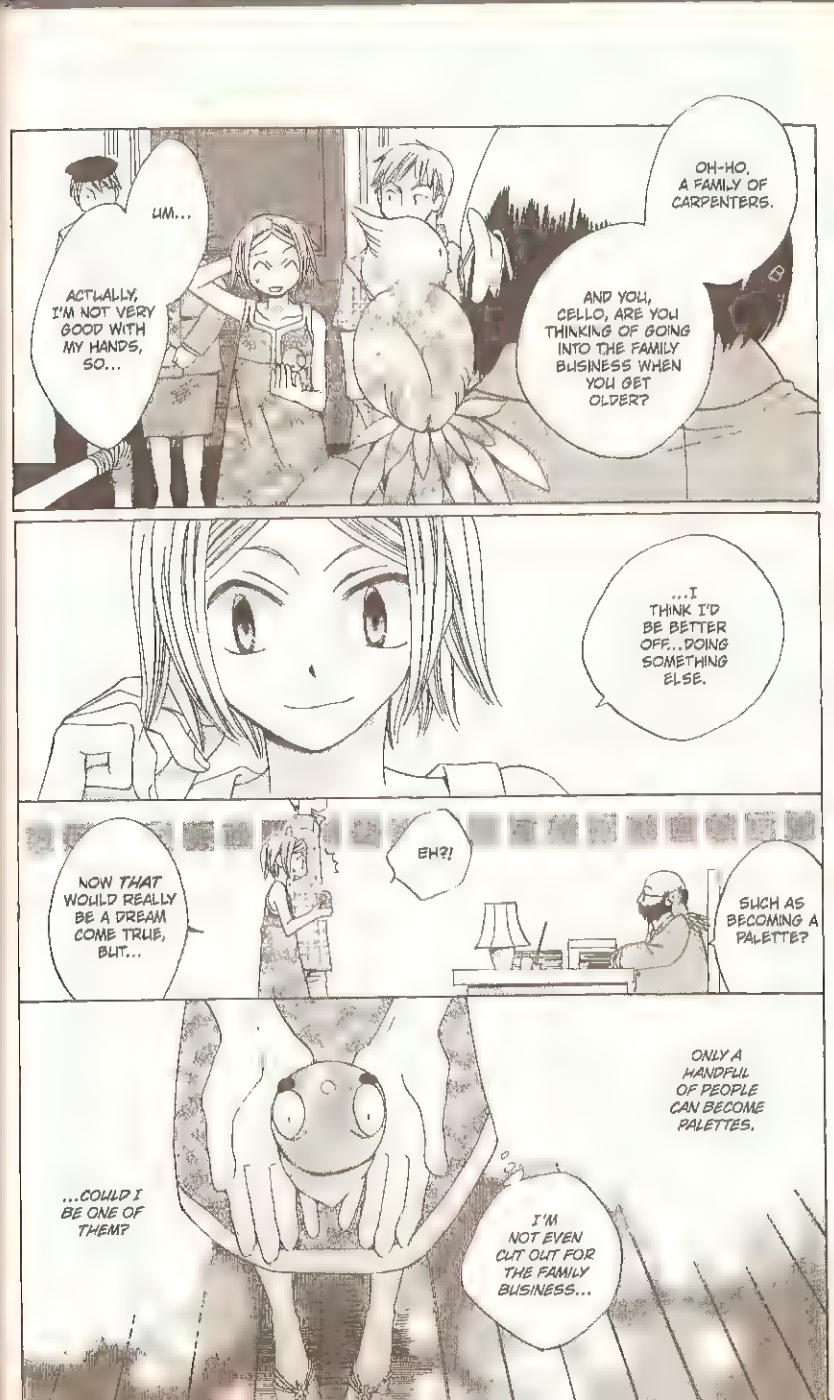

PLEASE.
HIYO HIYO
...ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
OH!
...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE CARE OF IT AT YOUR HOME, IF POSSIBLE.
HOWEVER, UNTIL THIS CHICK HAS GROWN ENOUGH TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OF ITS "PARENT"...

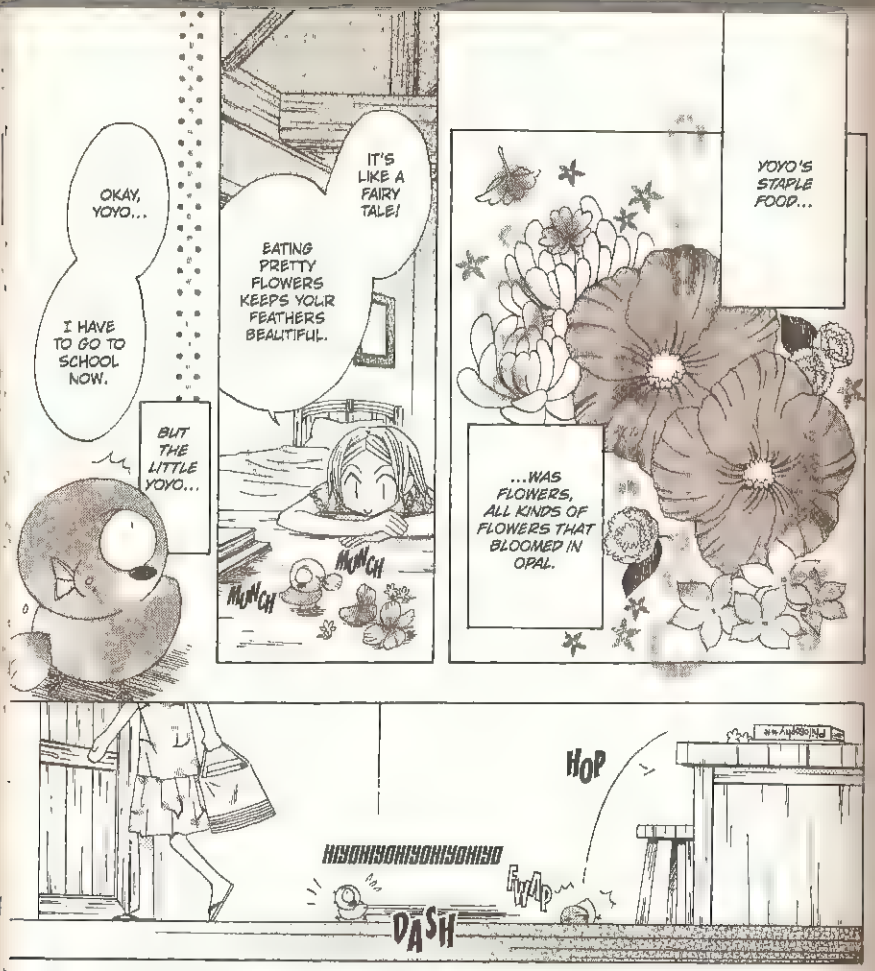

EH?
LIKE A DREAM, IS IT...?
IF I MAY, WHAT LINE OF WORK ARE YOU IN, SIR?
I'M A CARPENTER, LIKE THE REST OF THE FAMILY.
PINCH
DAD, GETTING TO LIVE WITH A BIRD...
IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
OUCH!
IF IT HURTS, THEN IT MUST NOT BE A DREAM, DAUGHTER DEAR. ♡


HIYO
HIYO
HIYO
...IT'S ALREADY IMPRINTED!

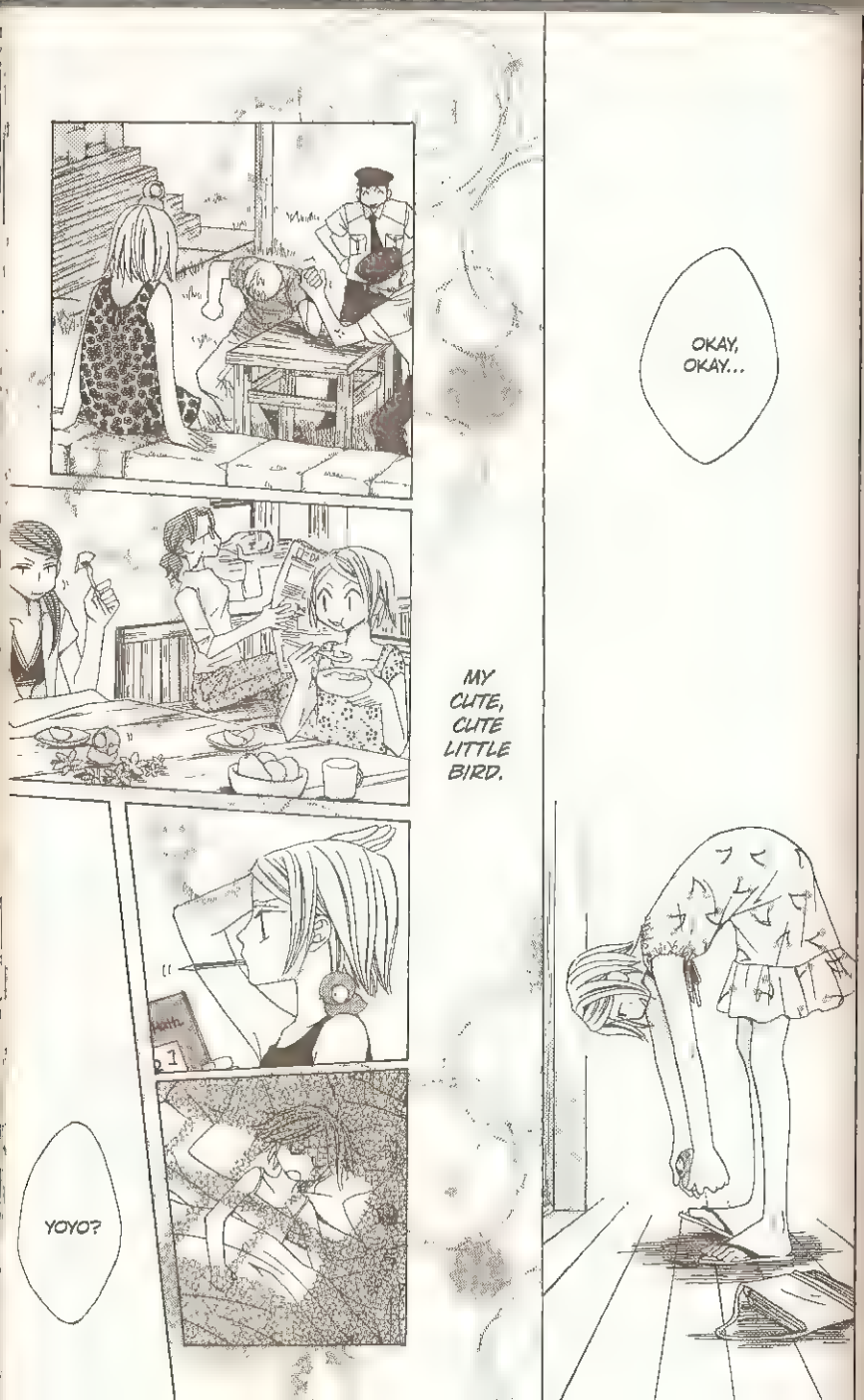
UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES...
...IT WOULDN'T BE BENEFICIAL TO THE CHICK TO SEPARATE YOU TWO.
AS THESE BIRDS ARE THE TOWN'S TREASURES, THERE ARE CERTAIN CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET.
FIRST TIME RIDING ON HER HEAD
AH!
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M CELLO.
I'M THE PRINCIPAL OF THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL.

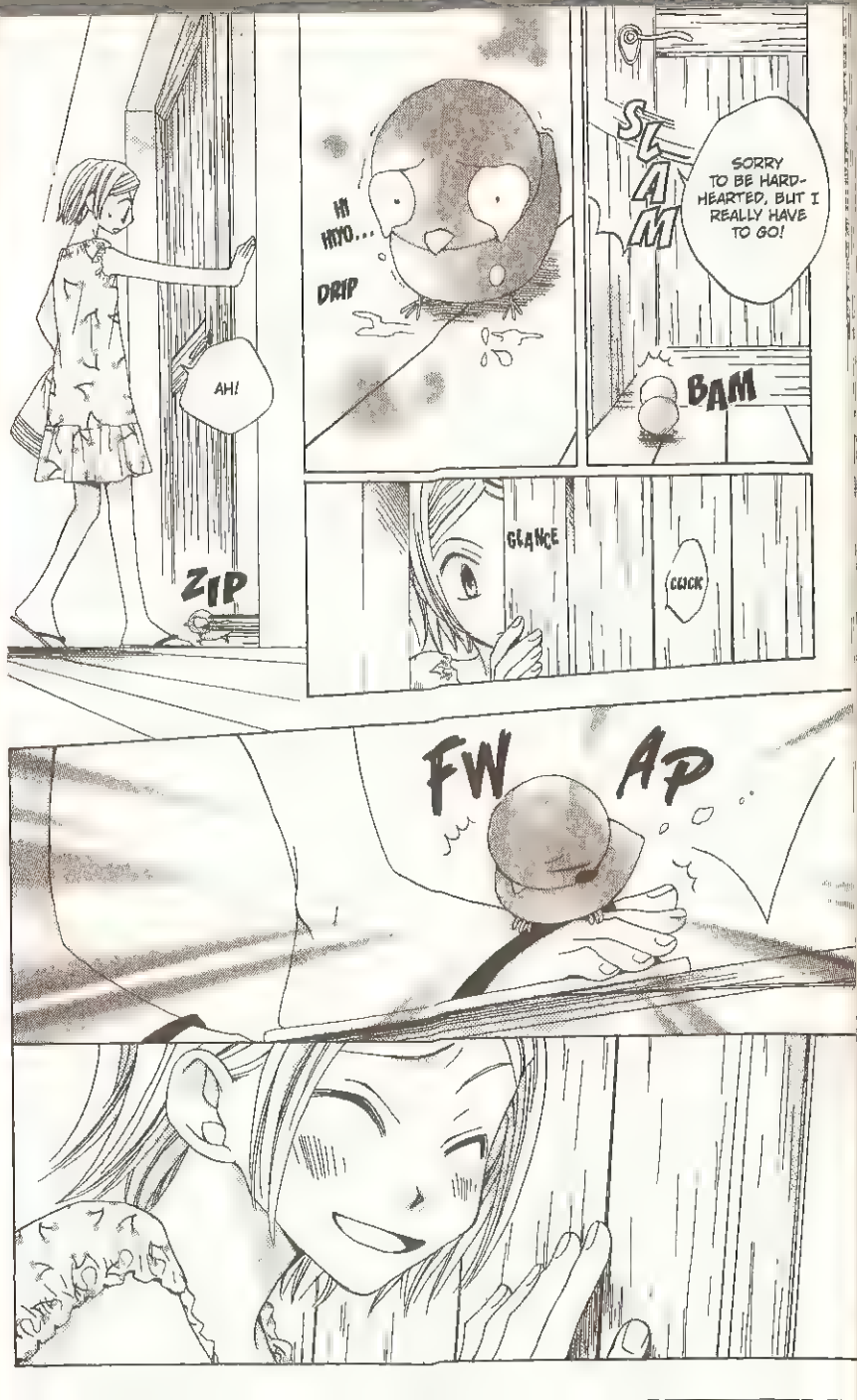
IT'S MY DREAM...
...BUT THAT'S ALL IT IS.
INDEED?
ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL'S CONDITIONS ...
... WAS NOT LETTING THE BIRD LEAVE OUR PROPERTY.
THE OTHER WAS ALLOWING SECURITY GUARDS TO BE POSTED OUTSIDE OUR HOUSE.
BUT MORE PROBLEMATIC THAN THAT IS...
SINCE HE WAS BORN FROM A FISH, I SAY WE CALL HIM "LITTLE FISH". ♡
UGH! YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TASTE!
HIS NAME IS "BIRDIE"!
WHAT'S WITH THE "FISH" AND THE "BIRDS" IN THE NAME? LET'S JUST CALL HIM "BIGHEAD"!
I THINK I'D BETTER CHOOSE THE NAME!

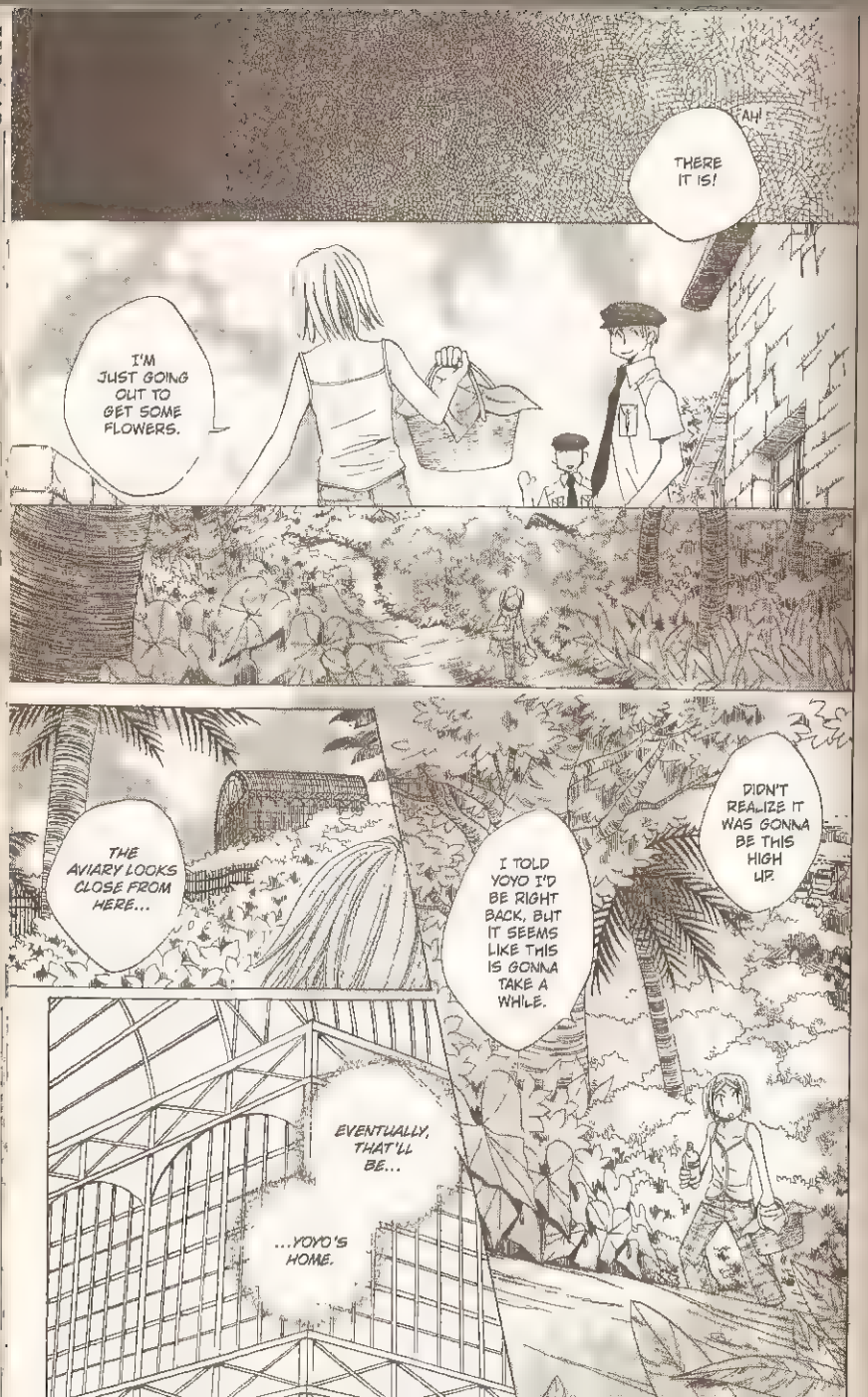

OH-HO, A FAMILY OF CARPENTERS.
UM... ACTUALLY, I'M NOT VERY GOOD WITH MY HANDS, SO...
AND YOU, CELLO, ARE YOU THINKING OF GOING INTO THE FAMILY BUSINESS WHEN YOU GET OLDER?
...I THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF...DOING SOMETHING ELSE.
EH?!
NOW THAT WOULD REALLY BE A DREAM COME TRUE, BUT...
SUCH AS BECOMING A PALETTE?
ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE CAN BECOME PALETTES.
...COULD I BE ONE OF THEM?
I'M NOT EVEN CUT OUT FOR THE FAMILY BUSINESS...

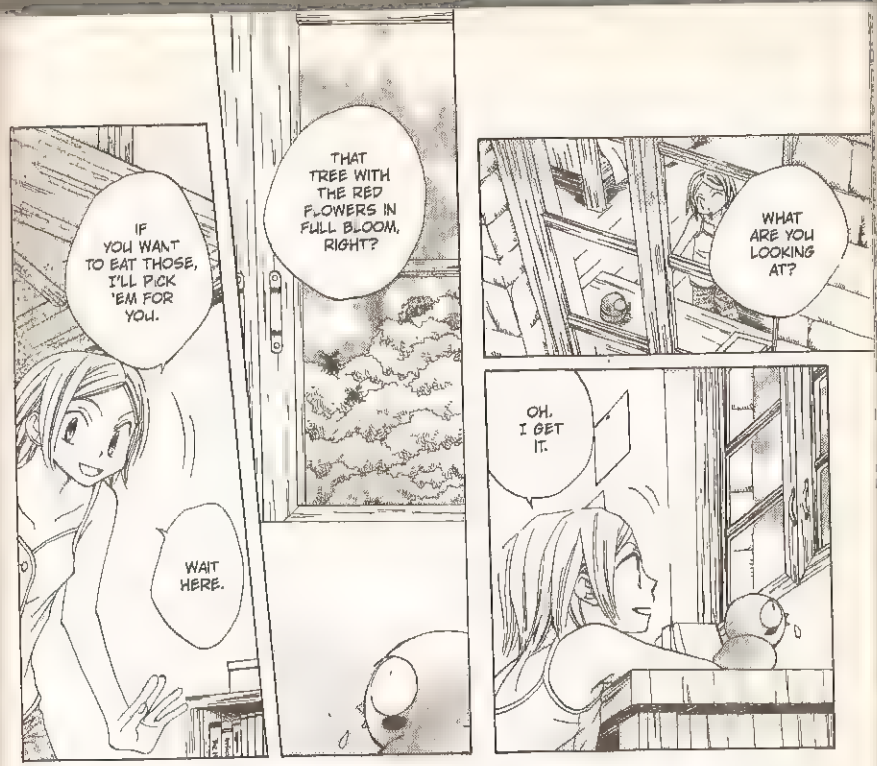

OKAY, YOYO...
I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL NOW.
BUT THE LITTLE YOYO...
IT'S LIKE A FAIRY TALE!
EATING PRETTY FLOWERS KEEPS YOUR FEATHERS BEAUTIFUL.
MUNCH
MUNCH
YOYO'S STAPLE FOOD...
...WAS FLOWERS, ALL KINDS OF FLOWERS THAT BLOOMED IN OPAL.
HOP
HIYOHIYOHIYOHIYOHIYO
DASH
FWAP
AGAIN. .?
...BEHAVED LIKE A SPOILED CHILD.
AH!
FWAP

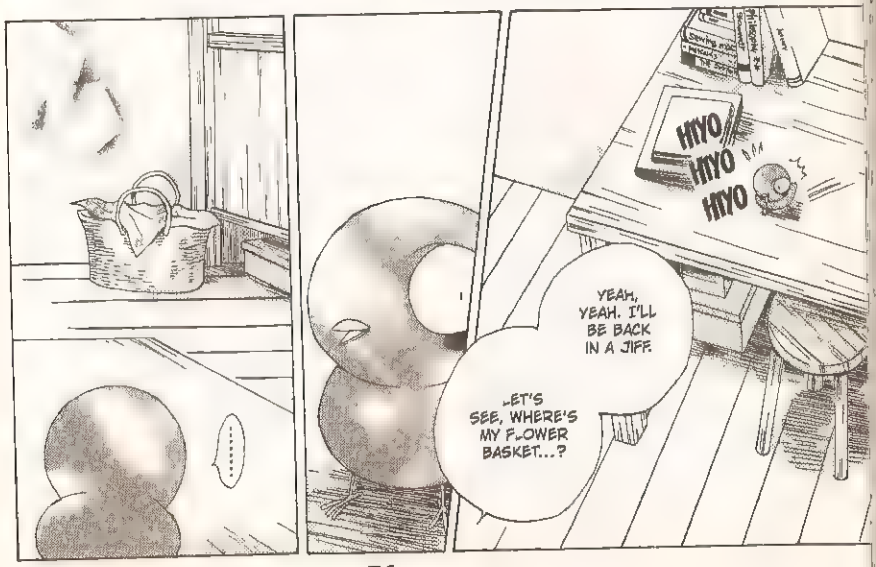
OH!
HEY, THAT'S CUTE! WHERE'D YOU COME UP WITH IT?
IT'S THE SAME NAME AS A TOY FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY.
I THOLGHT IT WAS THE NAME OF A FAMOUS CELLIST!
BIGHEAD!
BIRDIE!
LITTLE FISH!
TAP TAP TAP
AH!
TA-DAA
YOYO
I THOLGHT OF A NAME FOR HIM, TOO!
I CHRISTEN HIM YOYO!
HIYO HIYO HIYO
FWAP
OH
THE BIRD'S CALMED DOWN.
EH?
I GOT IT FROM HIS CHIRPING: HIYO, HIYO!


OKAY, OKAY...
MY CUTE, CUTE LITTLE BIRD.
YOYO?

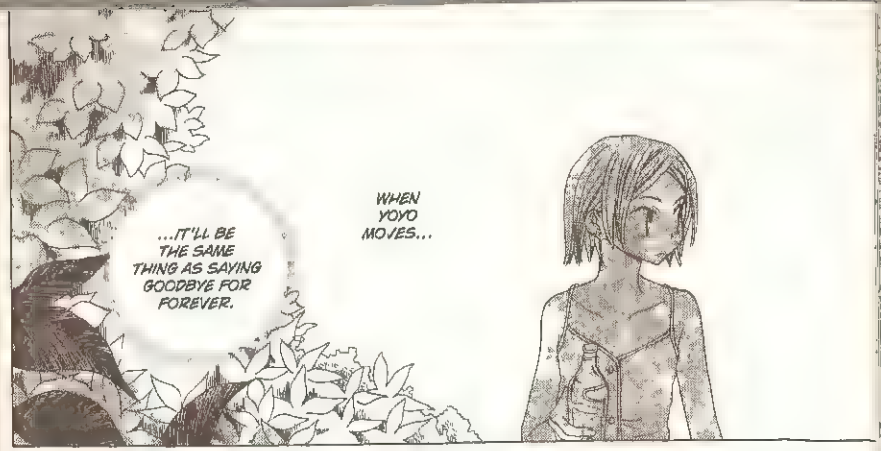

ZIP
AH!
HI HIYO...
DRIP
SLAM
SORRY TO BE HARD-HEARTED, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GO!
BAM
GLANCE
CLICK
FW AP

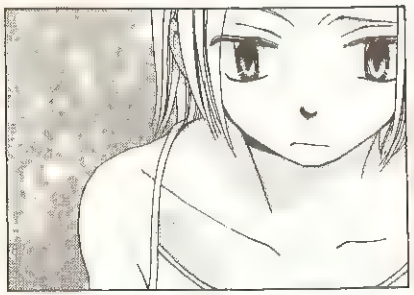

AH!
THERE IT IS!
I'M JUST GOING OUT TO GET SOME FLOWERS.
THE AVIARY LOOKS CLOSE FROM HERE...
I TOLD YOYO I'D BE RIGHT BACK, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THIS IS GONNA TAKE A WHILE.
DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS GONNA BE THIS HIGH UP.
EVENTUALLY, THAT'LL BE...
...YOYO'S HOME.

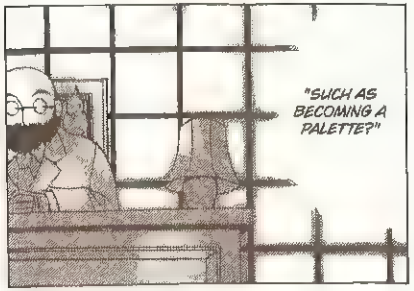

IF YOU WANT TO EAT THOSE, I'LL PICK 'EM FOR YOU.
THAT TREE WITH THE RED FLOWERS IN FULL BLOOM, RIGHT?
WAIT HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
OH, I GET IT.


HIYO HIYO HIYO
YEAH, YEAH. I'LL BE BACK IN A JIFF.
LET'S SEE, WHERE'S MY FLOWER BASKET...?

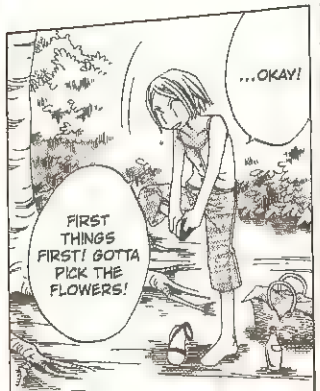
ACK!
I'M SURE YOYO'S WHINING RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
I KNEW HE WASN'T HAPPY WHEN I LEFT BECAUSE HE HID AWAY SOMEWHERE...
SHAKE SHAKE
WHIMPER
THE SECURITY GUARDS WILL PROBABLY HAVE A CONNIPTION FIT WHEN THEY FIND OUT!
YOU KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU OUTSIDE THE HOUSE!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH YOU...?
SNAP
HEY, THAT'S NO FAIR! STOP CRYING!
I'M GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO PICK THESE FOR YOU, SO YOU BETTER EAT 'EM UP!
UM... WHICH ONES ARE THE FRESHEST ...?







"IT'S MY DREAM, BUT THAT'S ALL IT IS."

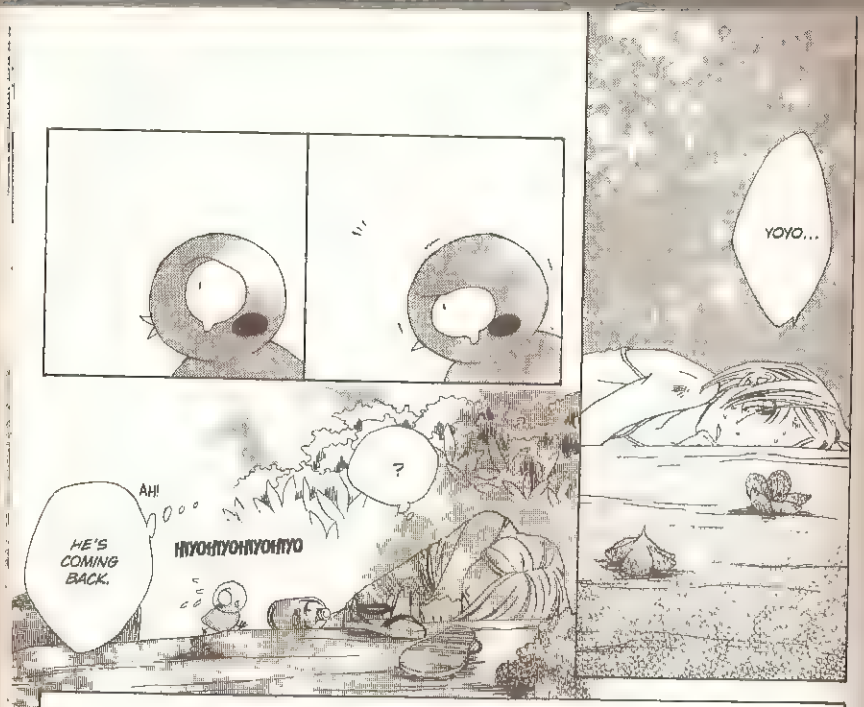


KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
WHUMP...

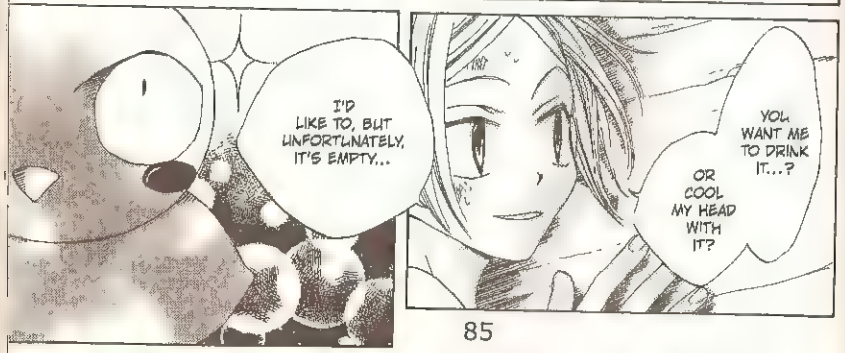
THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD...
!
CREAK...
CRACK

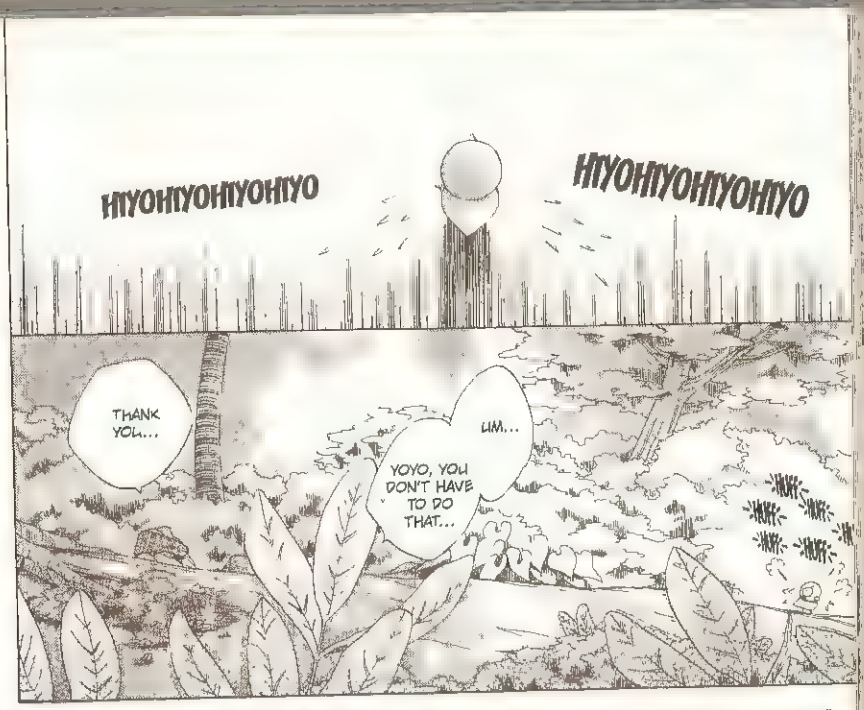
HIYO
CHIRP CHIRP...
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE IT.
IS ANYBODY...
...AROUND?
AH!
HIYO HIYO HIYO HIYO
YOYO!
FIGURES. THIS IS PRETTY REMOTE.
HIYOHIYOHIYOHIYOHIYO
SPIN
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

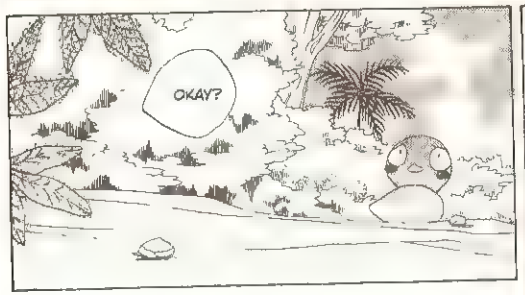
FLUTTER
FLUTTER...
CRASH
UHHH...
HIYO
HIYO HIYO
HIYO
THROB
THROB
WHAT SHOULD I DO? DON'T THINK I CAN WALK...
THUMP THUMP
I DON'T LIKE THIS WEIRD SWEAT...
..I'VE GOT A BROKEN BONE?
MAYBE IT MEANS...

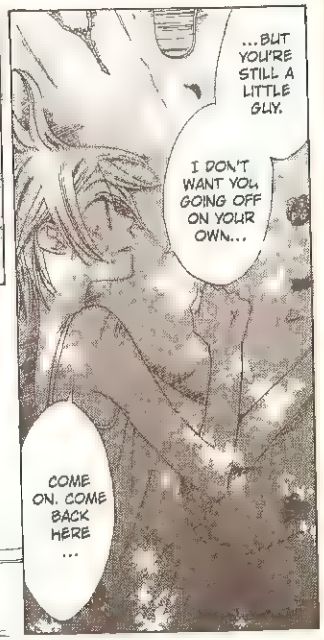

YOYO...
?
AH!
HE'S COMING BACK.
HIYOHIYOHIYOHIYO

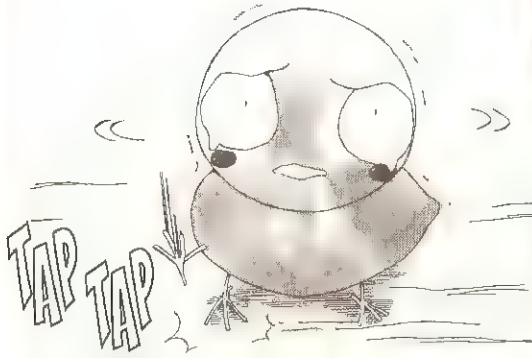
ROLL
pineapple soda


I'D LIKE TO, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S EMPTY...
OR COOL MY HEAD WITH IT?
YOU WANT ME TO DRINK IT...?


HIYOHIYOHIYOHIYO
HIYOHIYOHIYOHIYO
THANK YOU...
UM...
YOYO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT...

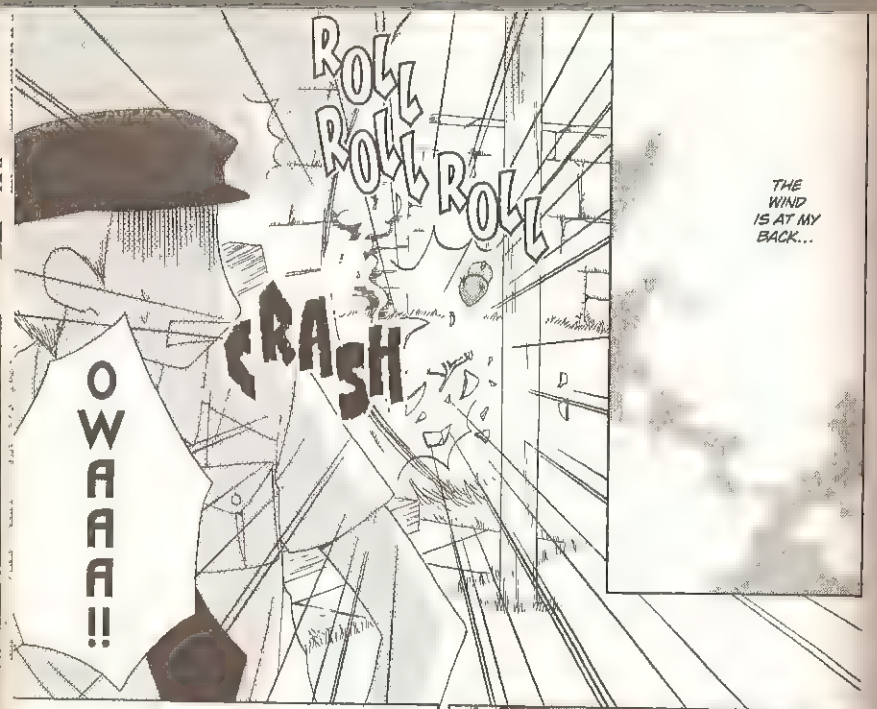

OKAY?

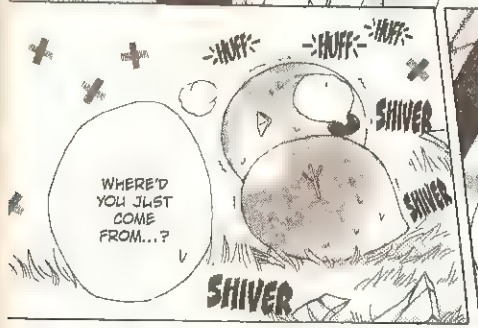

...BUT YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE GUY.
I DON'T WANT YOU GOING OFF ON YOUR OWN...
COME ON. COME BACK HERE ...


TAP TAP

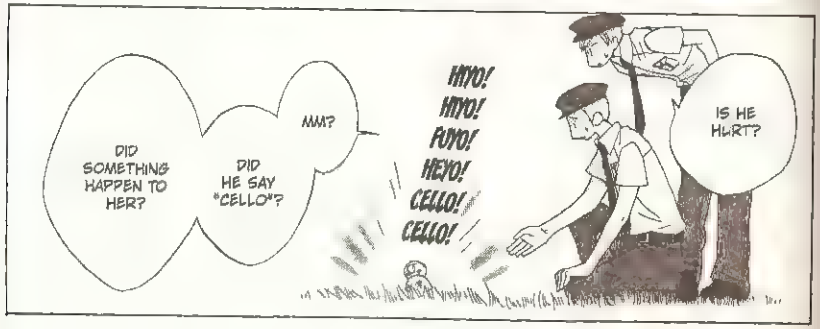
ROLL
HITO YOYOYO YOYO YO
ROLL ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
NOOOO!

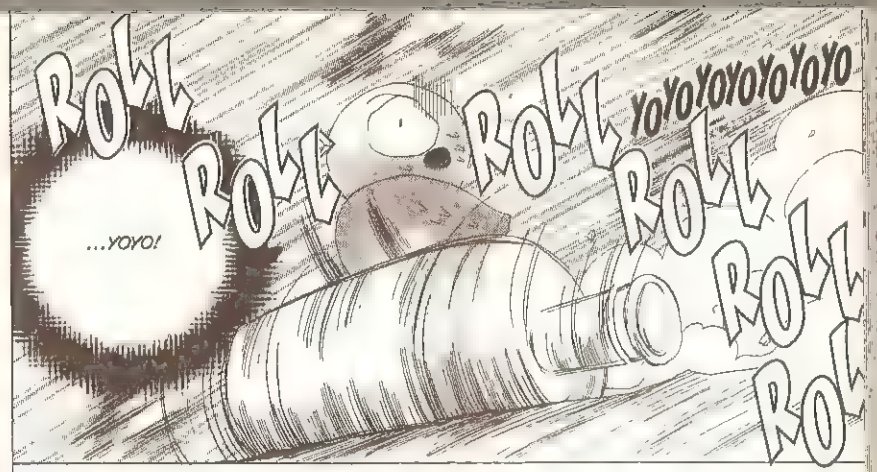
...EH?!
ROLL
TINK
ROLL
!!
WHIZ
ZZ
NOD...
DETERMINED
YO...

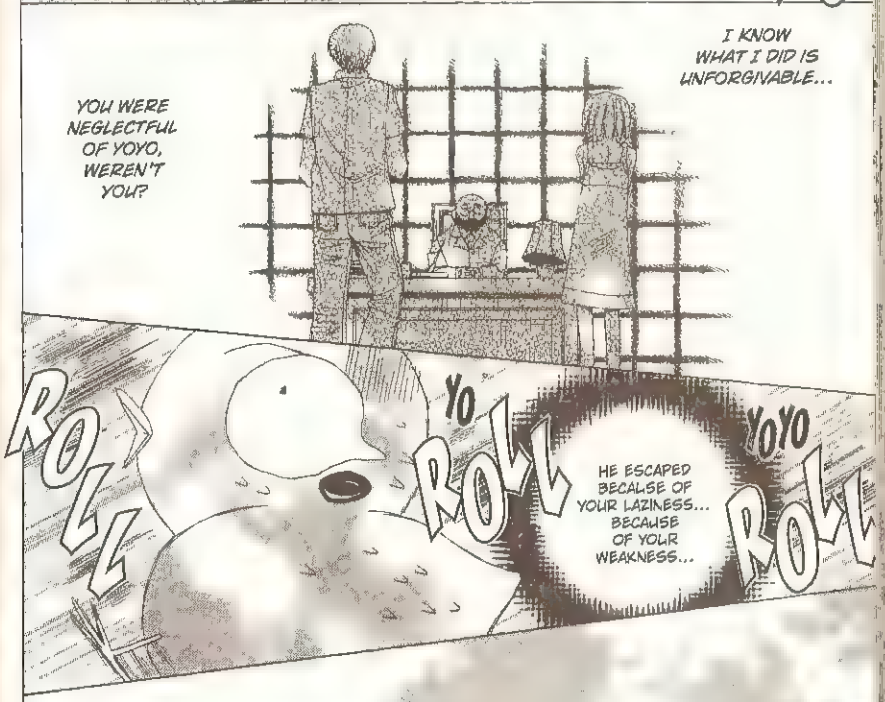

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
CRASH
OWAAA!!
THE WIND IS AT MY BACK...

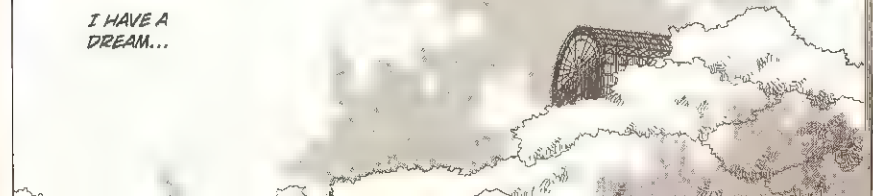

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
WHERE'D YOU JUST COME FROM...?

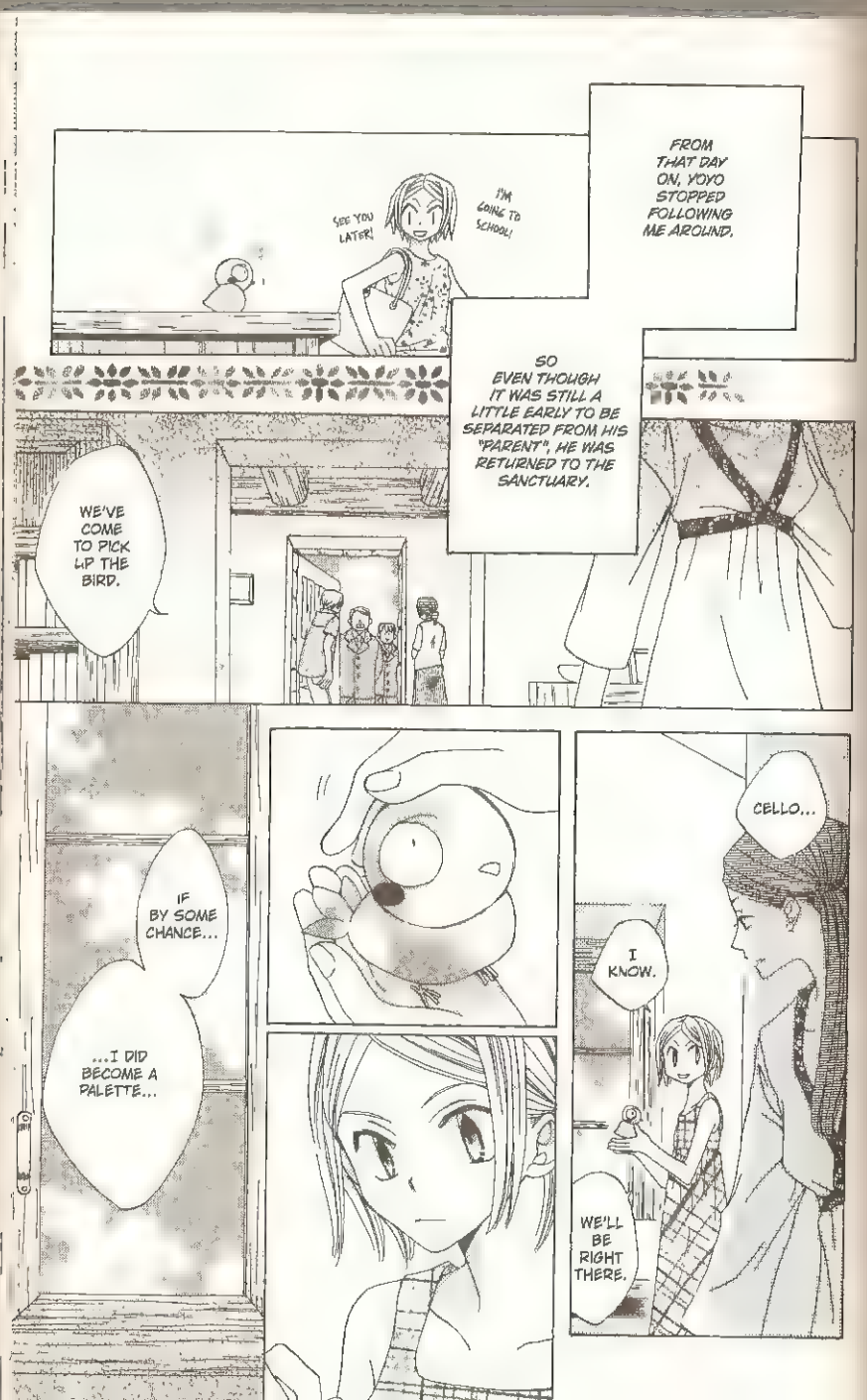
.....
HAH?!
ISN'T THAT YOYO?!

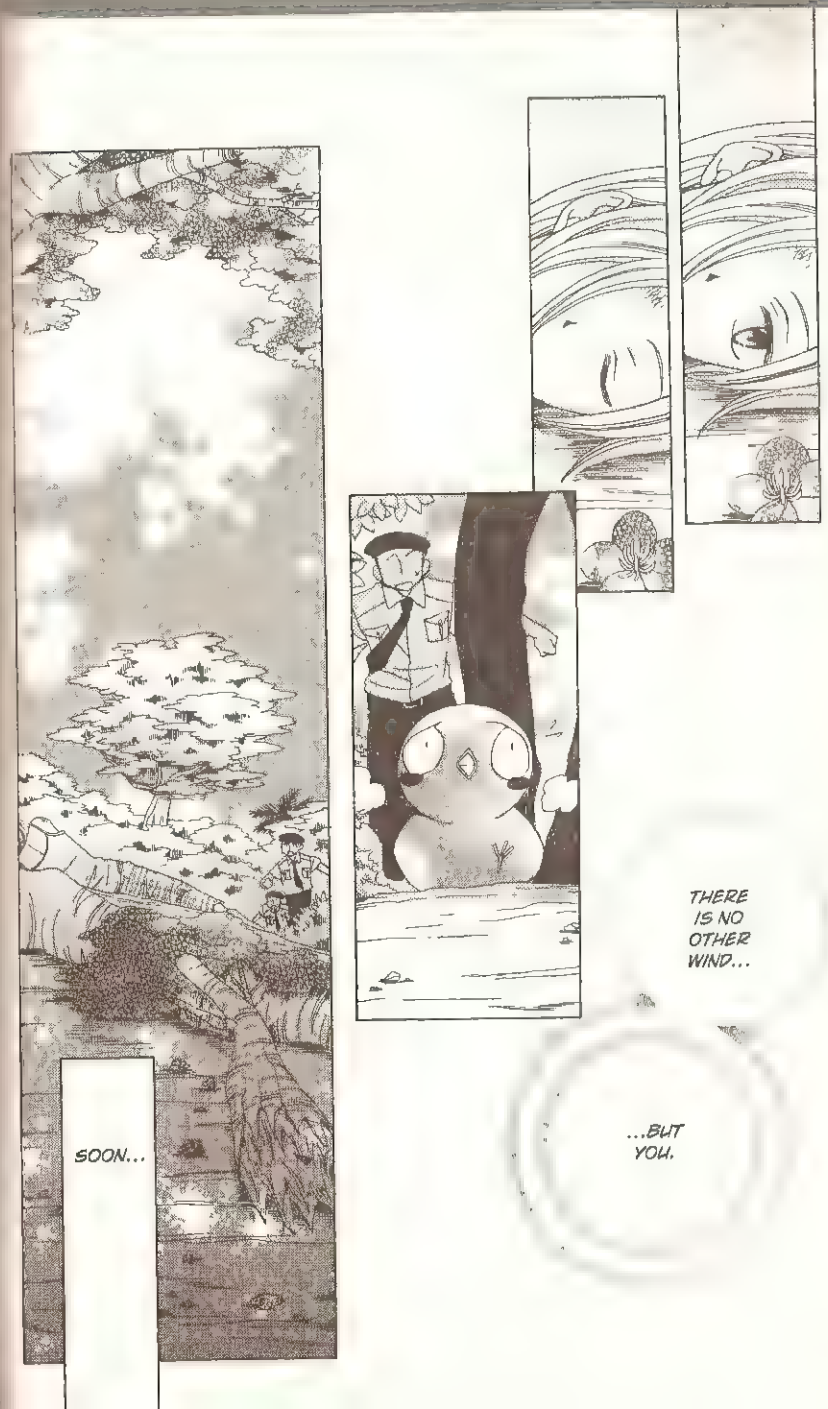

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HER?
DID HE SAY "CELLO"?
MM?
HIYO!
HIYO!
FUYO!
HEYO!
CELLO!
CELLO!
IS HE HURT?

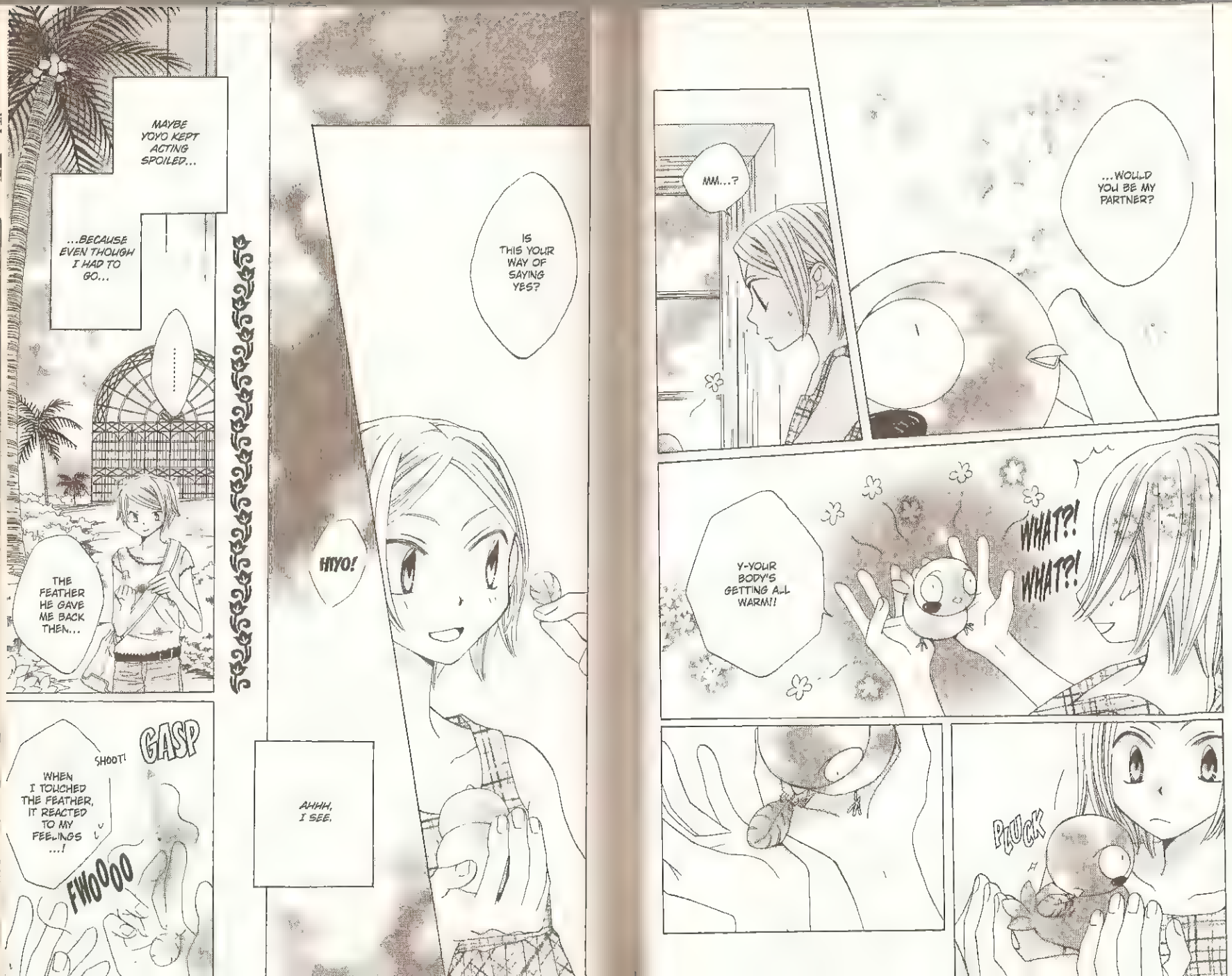

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
YOYOYOYOYOYOYO
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
...YOYO!

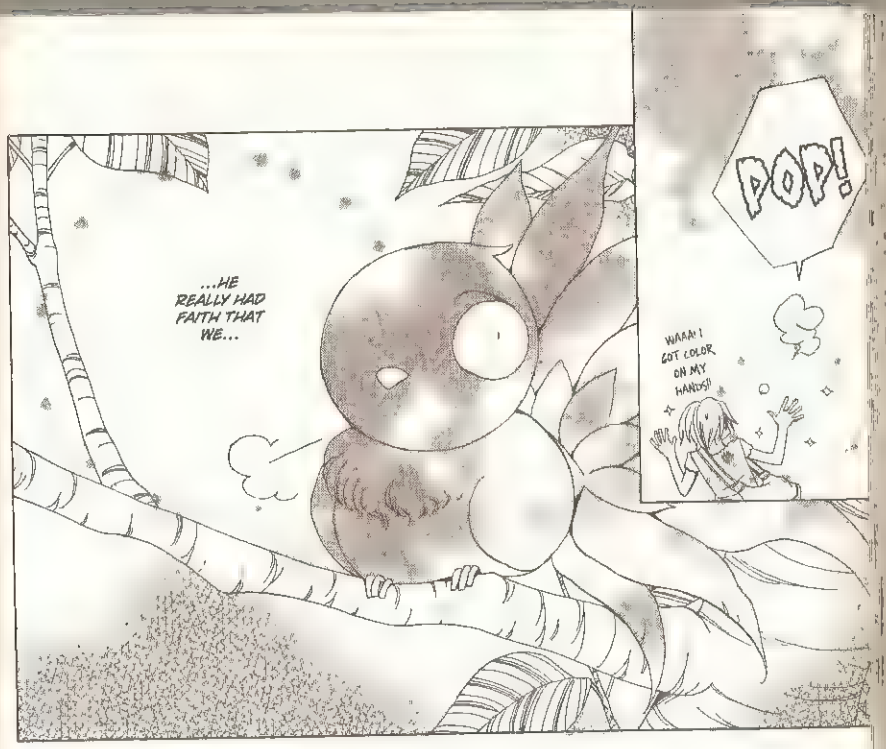

I KNOW WHAT I DID IS UNFORGIVABLE...
YOU WERE NEGLECTFUL OF YOYO, WEREN'T YOU?
ROLL
YO
ROLL
HE ESCAPED BECAUSE OF YOUR LAZINESS... BECAUSE OF YOUR WEAKNESS...
YOYO
ROLL


I HAVE A DREAM...


SEE YOU LATER!
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL!
FROM THAT DAY ON, YOYO STOPPED FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
SO EVEN THOUGH IT WAS STILL A LITTLE EARLY TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIS "PARENT", HE WAS RETURNED TO THE SANCTUARY.
WE'VE COME TO PICK UP THE BIRD.
IF BY SOME CHANCE...
...I DID BECOME A PALETTE...
CELLO...
I KNOW.
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE.


SOON...
THERE IS NO OTHER WIND...
...BUT YOU.

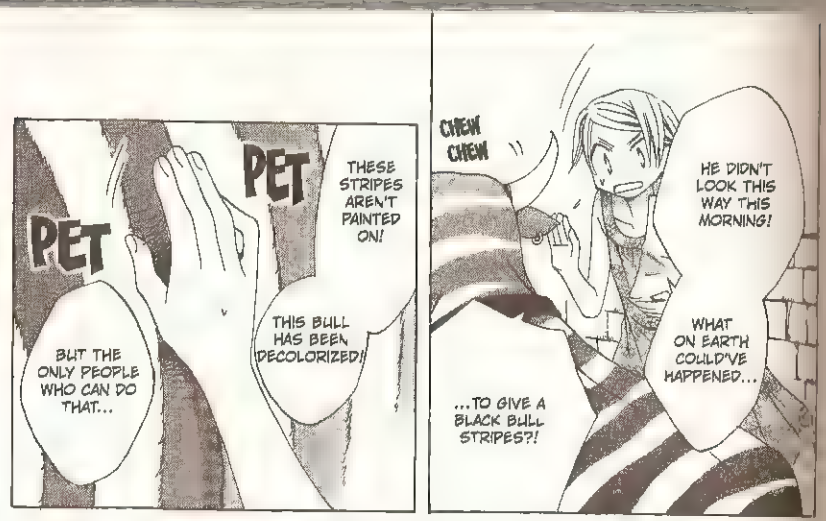

MAYBE YOYO KEPT ACTING SPOILED...
...BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH I HAD TO GO...
.....
THE FEATHER HE GAVE ME BACK THEN...
GASP
SHOOT!
WHEN I TOUCHED THE FEATHER, IT REACTED TO MY FEELINGS ...!
FWOOOO
IS THIS YOUR WAY OF SAYING YES?
HIYO!
AHHH, I SEE.
MM...?
...WOULD YOU BE MY PARTNER?
Y-YOUR BODY'S GETTING ALL WARM!!
WHAT?!
WHAT?!
PLUCK



...WOULD STAY TOGETHER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO END THIS WAY!
THANK YOU! I APPRECIATE IT.
VIVA CARELESSNESS.
INFIRMARY
ALTHOUGH THANKS TO THAT CARELESSNESS, I MANAGED TO SLIP IN AN APPEARANCE JUST UNDER THE WIRE.
SO WHAT'S THE LESSON, THAT YOUR BIRD HAS TO BE ON HIS TOES BECAUSE YOU'RE CARELESS?

EPISODE 5: THE END

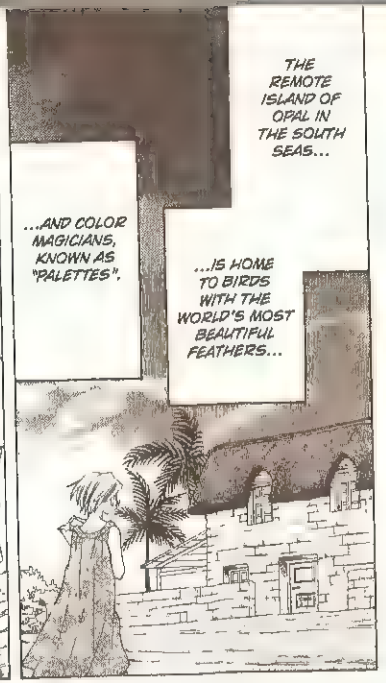

PET
PET
THESE STRIPES AREN'T PAINTED ON!
BUT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN DO THAT...
THIS BULL HAS BEEN DECOLORIZED!

CHEW CHEW
HE DIDN'T LOOK THIS WAY THIS MORNING!
WHAT ON EARTH COULD'VE HAPPENED...
...TO GIVE A BLACK BULL STRIPES?!

BINGO!
...ARE PALETTES!!

GOOFED UP HOW...?
YOUR DAD KIND OF GOOFED UP TODAY.
NOW I'M REPENTING FOR IT.
DAD?! WHAT HAPPENED?! WHY ARE YOU SITTING ON YOUR KNEES?!
YUCK
STRIPES
WELCOME HOME, CELLO. ♡
AS YOU CAN SEE, I LOOK LIKE A ZEBRA, TOO.
CELLO'S DAD THEO (37)

AFTER TERM-END EXAMS WERE OVER, THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL SHUT ITS DOORS FOR VACATION...
I'VE BEEN RUNNING ERRANDS ALL DAY!
EVERYONE'S PROBABLY HOME FROM WORK BY NOW.
...SO I WENT BACK HOME TO MY FAMILY OF CARPENTERS, I'M CELLO, BY THE WAY.
PALETTES ARE SPECIAL ARTISANS WHO CAN BORROW COLORS FROM WHATEVER THEY TOUCH.


THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES".

THE LIGHTS ARE ON...
...AND THE LUMBER-PULLING BULL IS TIED...
STRIPES
AH!
CHEW CHEW
HUH ?!

OH, CELLO'S HOME.
HI.
HEY, I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.
HAVING A BEER AFTER GETTING OUT OF THE TUB
I DIDN'T REALIZE WHOSE HOUSE THIS WAS UNTIL A FEW MINUTE AGO.
PUFF
PUFF
DR. GUELL?!

SO THE GUY WHO LIVES IN THE APARTMENT IS STAYING WITH US FOR TONIGHT.
HUH.
...BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO REALLY FIX IT 'TIL DAYLIGHT TOMORROW.
OKAY...
AND HE'S A PALETTE?
RIGHT.
THE BULL RAN WILD IN TOWN AND BURST INTO SOMEBODY'S APARTMENT...
...DEMOLISHING THE DOOR.
I COVERED UP THE, UH, GAP FOR NOW...
BUT WHAT KIND OF GUY...
CLICK
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, CELLO! I ASKED HIM TO DO THIS! I THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY...
...TAKES REVENGE...
...LIKE THIS?!

5.

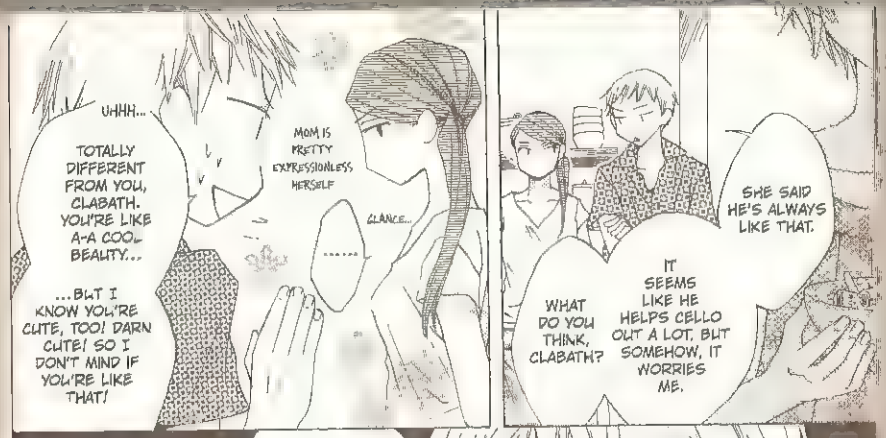
ABOUT ALCOHOL... I CAN'T DRINK MUCH AND I DON'T DRINK VERY OFTEN. BUT WHAT I DO LIKE IS PLUM LIQUOR. NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT, THAT'S WHAT I'LL ALWAYS ORDER FIRST... AND USUALLY SECOND; EITHER THAT, OR SOMETHING SIMILAR TO PLUM LIQUOR. I DO FEEL LIKE I SHOULD EXPAND MY "REPERTOIRE", THOUGH IT MAY BE THAT I ONLY LIKE DRINKING PLUM-BASED LIQUOR.

...IS THE DOCTOR, BY MY FATHER.
WHISPER WHISPER
YOUR DR. GUELL ISN'T REALLY ONE FOR EXPRESSIONS, IS HE?
THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN HE PUT THE STRIPES ON ME AND TOOK 'EM OFF WAS THE SAME LOOK HE HAD WHILE EATING EDAMAME!
MOO MOO
EVEN WHEN THE BULL INVADED HIS PLACE...
AWAWAWA! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
WHAM
Ah..
THE DOCTOR IS USUALLY LIKE THAT.
IS THAT ALL HE'S GOT?!
WOW.

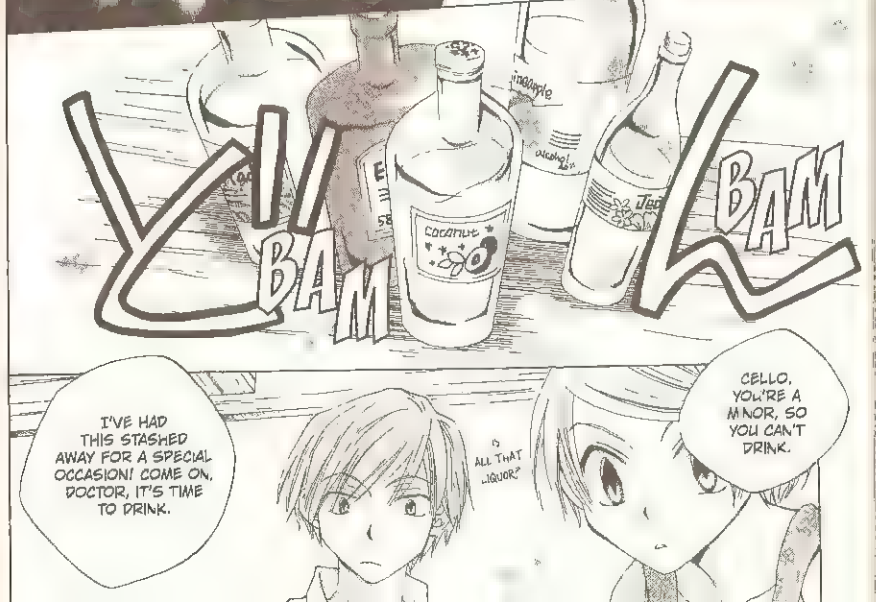
CELLO'S MOM CLABATH (40)
I'M JUST SORRY THAT WE HAD TO MEET UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!
THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE HERE.
CELLO'S MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER FEEKO (62)
WELL, WELL...
AND WHO KNEW THAT YOU WERE THE DOCTOR AT CELLO'S SCHOOL?
I SUPPOSE WE'RE ALL SURPRISED THIS EVENING!
ALTHOUGH, ACTUALLY, THE PERSON GETTING CHECKED OUT THE MOST HERE...
A HOUSE CALL...
CELLO!
FWUMP
I'M STILL SHOCKED...
IT FEELS STRANGE TO HAVE THE DOCTOR IN MY OWN HOME.
AH! BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL "DESIGN"!
JUST THINK OF THIS AS A "HOUSE CALL".

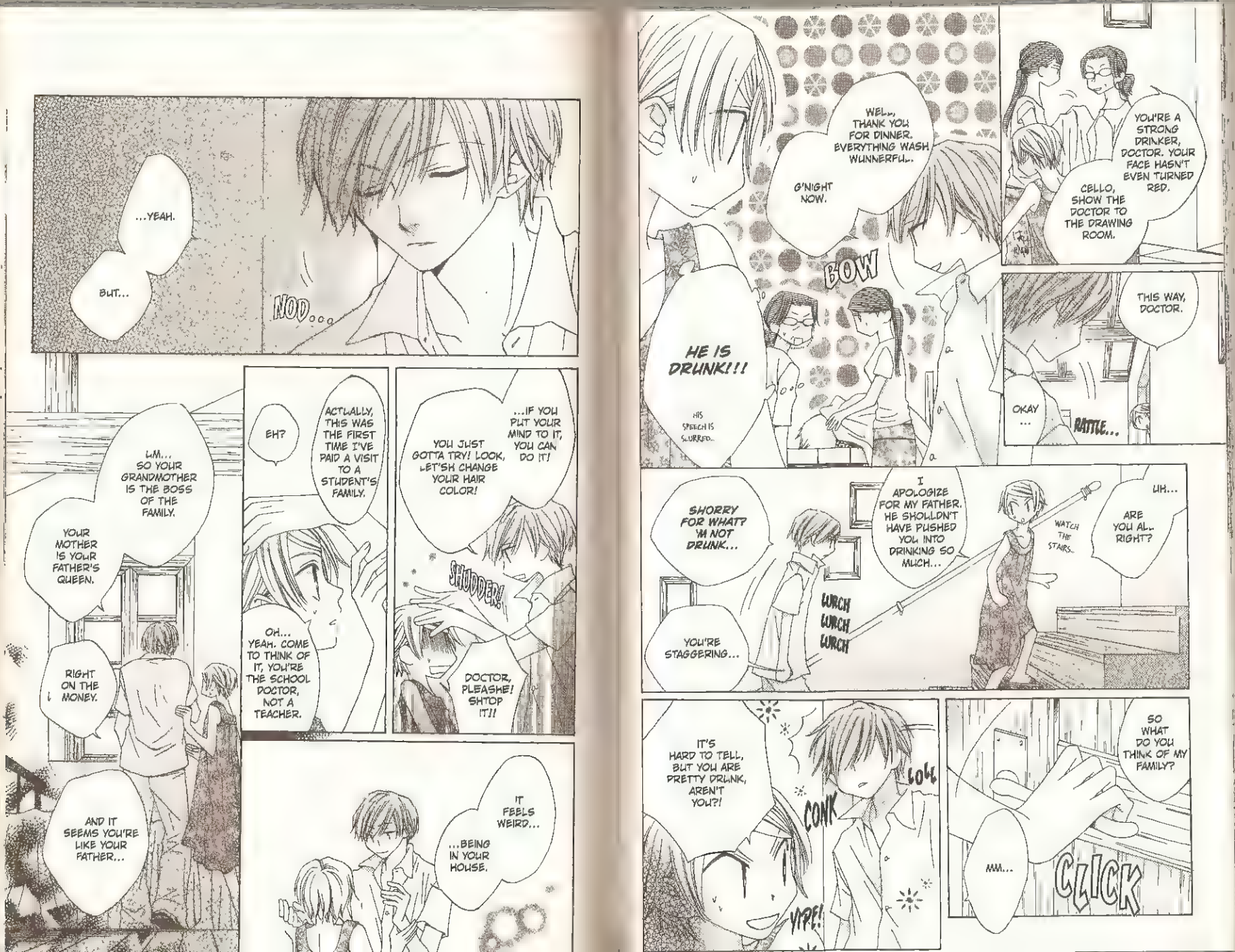
HE'D PROBABLY FEEL AT EASE...
...IF THE DOCTOR WERE ALWAYS GRINNING AND AMIABLE.
...DOESN'T LIKE DR. GUELL.
I WONDER IF DAD...
CHEERS!! DRINK AND SHOW ME YOUR TRUE PERSONALITY!

I LOST...
SMACK...
THEO'S SHOWN HIS TRUE PERSONALITY, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE ...
SHOWN THAT HE'S A DOPE!
THREE HOURS LATER..
SMACK SMACK
ZZZZZZZ
CHUCKLE ...

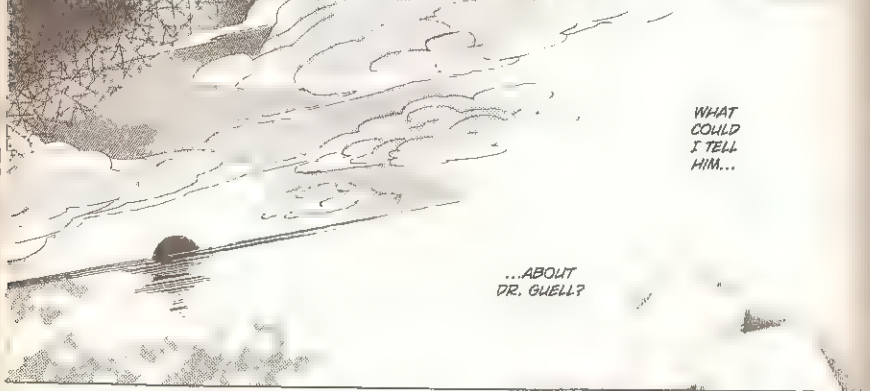

UHHH...
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM YOU, CLABATH. YOU'RE LIKE A-A COOL BEAUTY...
...BUT I KNOW YOU'RE CUTE, TOO! DARN CUTE! SO I DON'T MIND IF YOU'RE LIKE THAT!
MOM IS PRETTY EXPRESSIONLESS HERSELF
GLANCE...
.....
SHE SAID HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE HELPS CELLO OUT A LOT, BUT SOMEHOW, IT WORRIES ME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, CLABATH?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING, BUT I CAN'T TRUST CELLO WITH A TEACHER THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
HMM... SEEMS TO ME THAT I SHOULD TRY TO GET TO KNOW HIM A LITTLE BETTER.
I'LL TRY TO FORCE AN EXPRESSION OUT OF HIM!
DAD: RARING TO GO


BAM
BAM
BAM
I'VE HAD THIS STASHED AWAY FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION! COME ON, DOCTOR, IT'S TIME TO DRINK.
IS ALL THAT LIQUOR?
CELLO, YOU'RE A MINOR, SO YOU CAN'T DRINK.

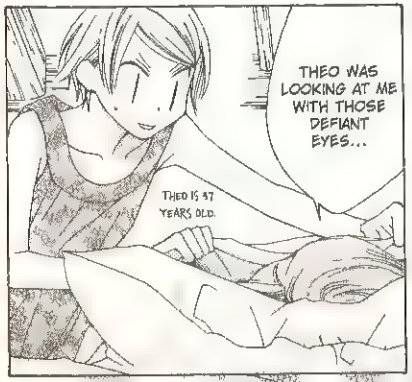

...YEAH.
BUT...
NOD...
UM... SO YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS THE BOSS OF THE FAMILY.
YOUR MOTHER IS YOUR FATHER'S QUEEN.
RIGHT ON THE MONEY.
AND IT SEEMS YOU'RE LIKE YOUR FATHER...
EH?
ACTUALLY, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE PAID A VISIT TO A STUDENT'S FAMILY.
OH... YEAH. COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE THE SCHOOL DOCTOR, NOT A TEACHER.
YOU JUST GOTTA TRY! LOOK, LET'SH CHANGE YOUR HAIR COLOR!
...IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT, YOU CAN DO IT!
SHUDDER!
DOCTOR, PLEASHE! SHTOP IT!!
IT FEELS WEIRD...
...BEING IN YOUR HOUSE.
WEL.., THANK YOU FOR DINNER. EVERYTHING WASH WUNNERFUL..
G'NIGHT NOW.
BOW
HE IS DRUNK!!!
HIS SPEECH IS SLURRED..
YOU'RE A STRONG DRINKER, DOCTOR. YOUR FACE HASN'T EVEN TURNED RED.
CELLO, SHOW THE DOCTOR TO THE DRAWING ROOM.
THIS WAY, DOCTOR.
OKAY ...
RATTLE...
SHORRY FOR WHAT? 'M NOT DRUNK...
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY FATHER. HE SHOULDN'T HAVE PUSHED YOU INTO DRINKING SO MUCH...
WATCH THE STAIRS..
UH... ARE YOU AL.. RIGHT?
YOU'RE STAGGERING...
LURCH LURCH LURCH
IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT YOU ARE PRETTY DRUNK, AREN'T YOU?!
CONK
LOLL
YIPE!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY FAMILY?
MM...
CLICK

DAD'S NEVER CHANGED HIS OPINION ABOUT ANYTHING
FOR THAT MATTER ...
...I DON'T THINK I CAN EXPLAIN IT TO HIM WELL EITHER.
...IS STEADFASTLY CALM.
CLICK
I DON'T KNOW IF THE DOCTOR'S GOOD POINTS CAN GET ACROSS TO DAD.
GOOD-NIGHT.
MUTTER

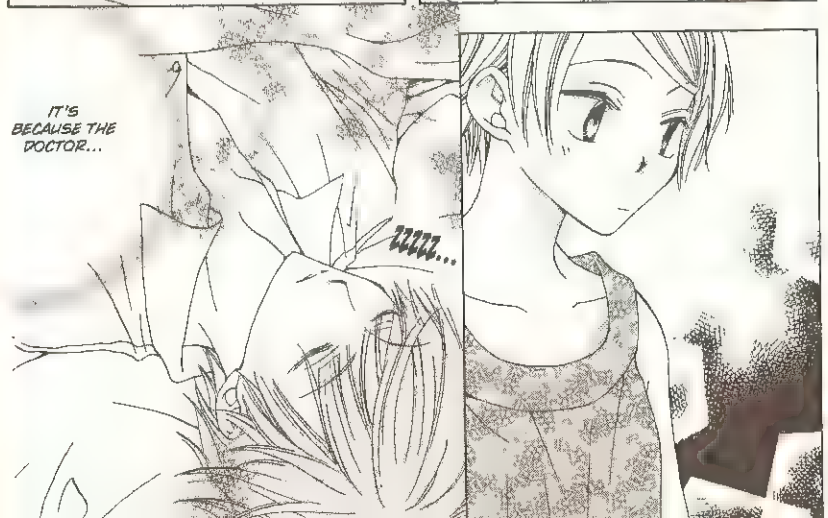

WHAT COULD I TELL HIM...
...ABOUT DR. GUELL?

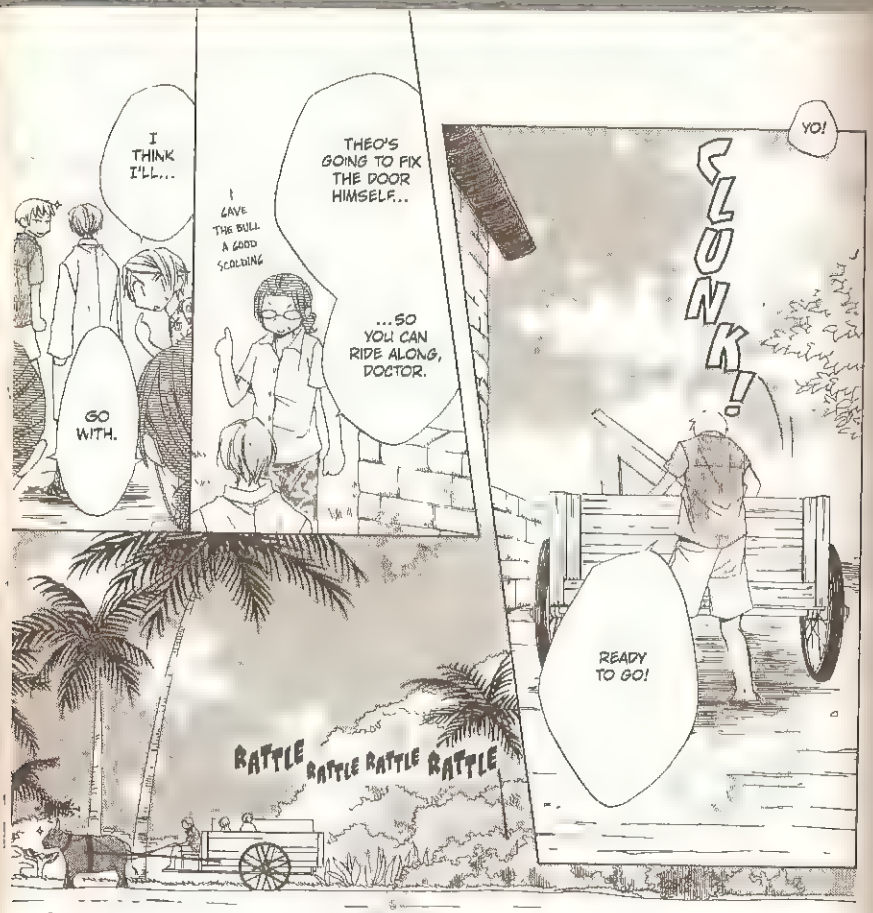
SO NOW I KNOW HE'S NOT A MORNING PERSON...
BRU
SH
BRU
SH
BRUSH

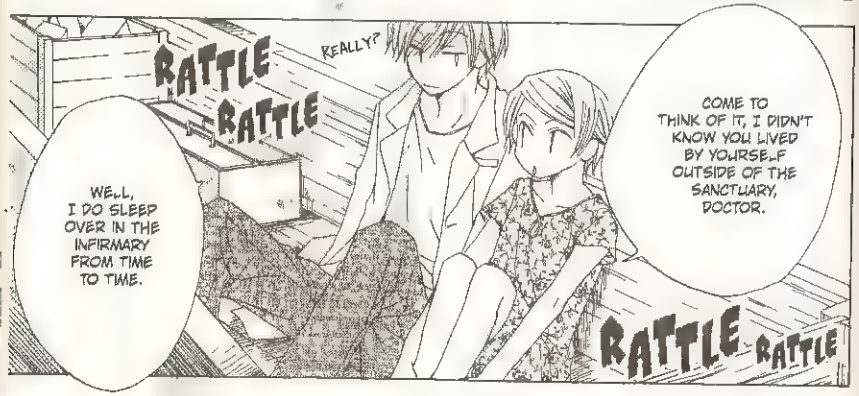
FWUMP!


THEO WAS LOOKING AT ME WITH THOSE DEFIANT EYES...
THEO IS 17 YEARS OLD.

DROWSY
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DRINK THAT MUCH, YOU KNOW...
I THINK I DID...

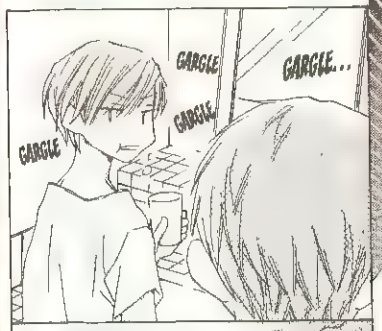

IT'S BECAUSE THE DOCTOR...
ZZZZZ...

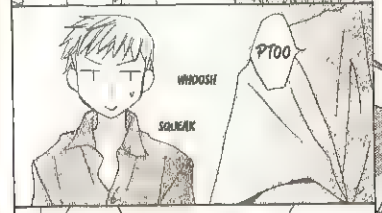

I THINK I'LL...
GO WITH.
I GAVE THE BULL A GOOD SCOLDING
THEO'S GOING TO FIX THE DOOR HIMSELF...
...SO YOU CAN RIDE ALONG, DOCTOR.
YO!
CLUNK!
READY TO GO!
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

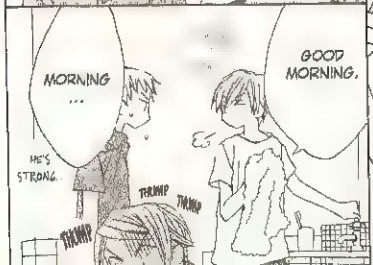

RATTLE RATTLE
REALLY?
WELL, I DO SLEEP OVER IN THE INFIRMARY FROM TIME TO TIME.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIVED BY YOURSELF OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY, DOCTOR.
RATTLE RATTLE

LAST NIGHT WAS A WASHOUT...
...BUT THIS TIME I'LL TRY A DIFFERENT METHOD. THROWING THE DOCTOR OFF BALANCE SHOULD BRING SOME EMOTIONS TO THE SURFACE!
ONE... TWO...

MM... YEAH...
GOOD MORNING, DOCTOR.
SNEAK
DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
WAKE UP, PLEASE.
I AM UP...


GARGLE
GARGLE...
GARGLE
GARGLE

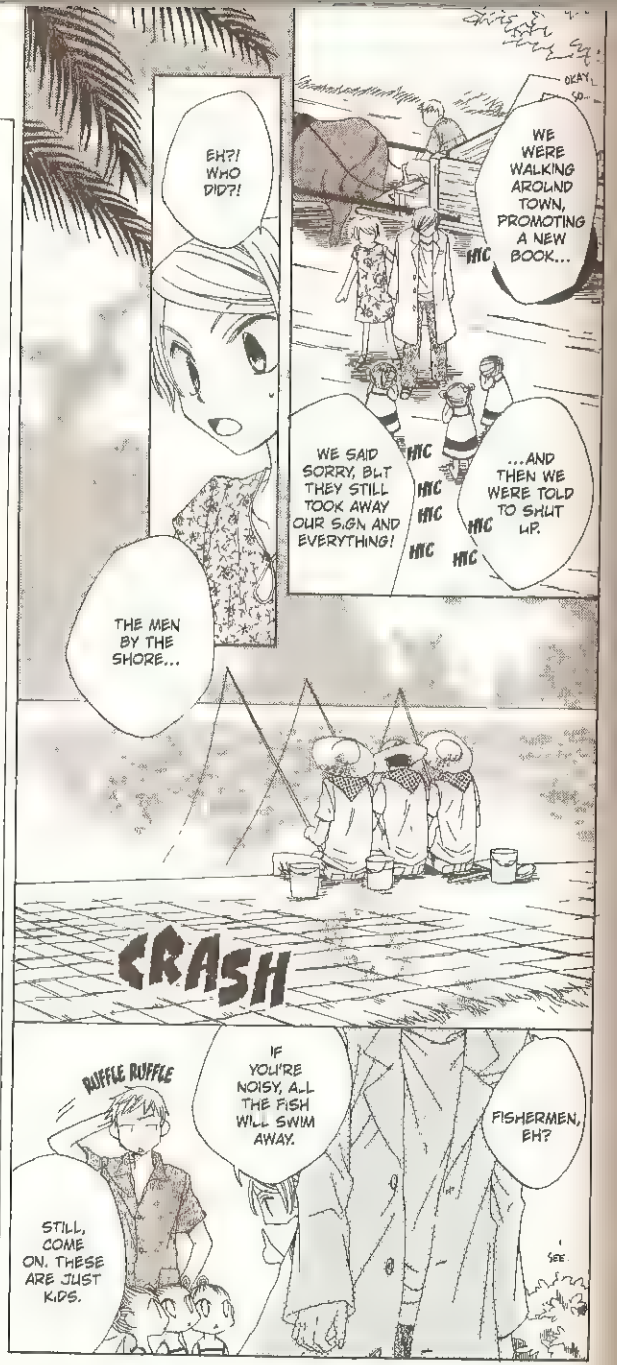

WHOOSH
SQUEAK
PTOO


MORNING...
GOOD MORNING.
HE'S STRONG.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

WAAA!
WAAAA!

6.

ABOUT TELEPHONES... I WASN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO LIKED TALKING ON THE PHONE FOR A LONG TIME, BUT SINCE BECOMING A MANGAKA AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH ARTISTS WHO LIVE FAR AWAY, I'VE CHANGED COMPLETELY. ONE TIME I TALKED FOR SEVEN HOURS ON THE PHONE. I DON'T CALL THE SAME PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, SO THE THINGS WE HAVE TO SAY TO EACH OTHER KEEP BUILDING UP AND BUILDING UP. AS A RESULT, IT'S LIKE NO MATTER HOW LONG THE CONVERSATION, WE NEVER RUN OUT OF THINGS TO SAY. THE ONLY DOWNSIDE IS GETTING THE MONTHLY CELL PHONE USAGE BILL, WHICH USUALLY AMOUNTS TO 30,000 YEN (APP. $277 U.S.) OR MORE. BUT TALKING TO FRIENDS MAKES ME FEEL REFRESHED.


EH?! WHO DID?!
WE WERE WALKING AROUND TOWN, PROMOTING A NEW BOOK...
OKAY, SO...
HIC
WE SAID SORRY, BUT THEY STILL TOOK AWAY OUR SIGN AND EVERYTHING!
...AND THEN WE WERE TOLD TO SHUT UP.
THE MEN BY THE SHORE...
CRASH
RUFFLE RUFFLE
IF YOU'RE NOISY, ALL THE FISH WILL SWIM AWAY.
FISHERMEN, EH?
STILL, COME ON. THESE ARE JUST KIDS.
SEE

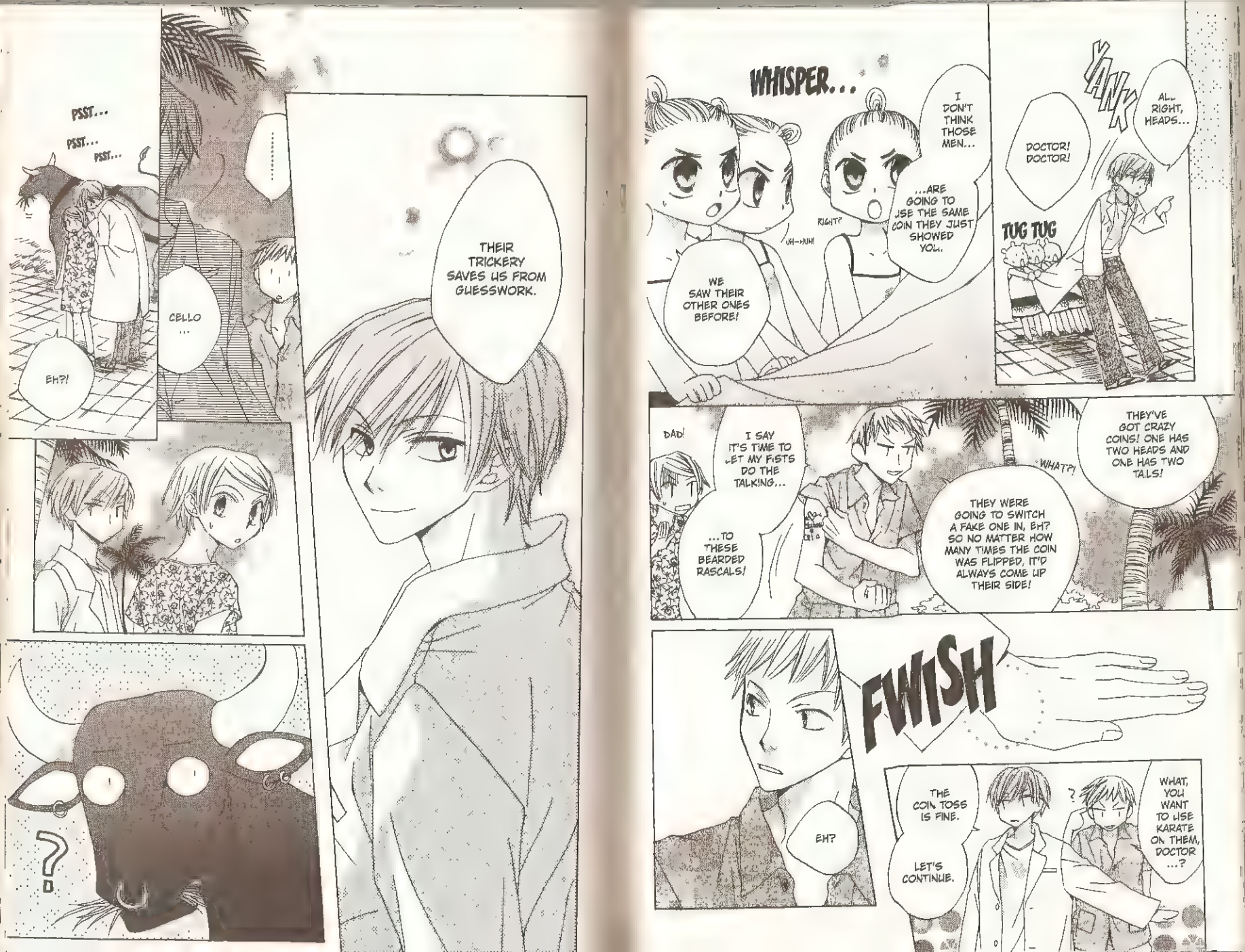
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN THEM CRYING BEFORE...
WAAAAAAAAA
OH!
THE BED IN THERE HAS MY NAME ON IT
WHAT YOU MADE IT INTO YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY?!
AREN'T THOSE THE BOOKSTORE TRIPLETS?
EH?
AH!
BILLIO, MILLIO, TRILLIO!
WHAT'S WRONG?
CELLO!
DR. GUELL!
THE OLD MAN WHO ALWAYS BUYS MANGA FROM THE LEFT SIDE OF THE WALL!
I BUY IT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M

WHY DOES THAT PLEASE YOU?
Yes!!
Yes!!
I CAUGHT THAT! YOU WERE ANNOYED, DOCTOR! YOU WERE ANNOYED!!

...OR TAILS.
AGREED?
OPAL
500 YEN
HEADS...
OH!
GRAND IDEA! LET'S FLIP A COIN!
I HAVE AN IDEA.
HOW ABOUT IF WE GAMBLE OVER IT? IF YOU WIN, WE'LL RETURN EVERYTHING WE CONFISCATED.
...FINE BY ME.

SSSHHHH
SPIN
WHAT WOULD YOU EVEN CALL THIS...TWO SETS OF CONTRASTING TRIPLETS!!
...WOW.

BUT...
THEY APOLOGIZED, DIDN'T THEY?
AN APOLOGY FROM STUPID KIDS ISN'T GOING TO BRING BACK THE FISH THAT ESCAPED, YOUNG MAN!
CRASH
FORGET IT!
HMPH
THEY CAUSED A RACKET JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO REEL IN A BIG CATCH!
EXCUSE ME.
WOULD YOU RETURN THE THINGS YOU TOOK FROM THESE THREE CUTE TRIPLETS?
THE DOCTOR JUST LAYS IT OUT STRAIGHT

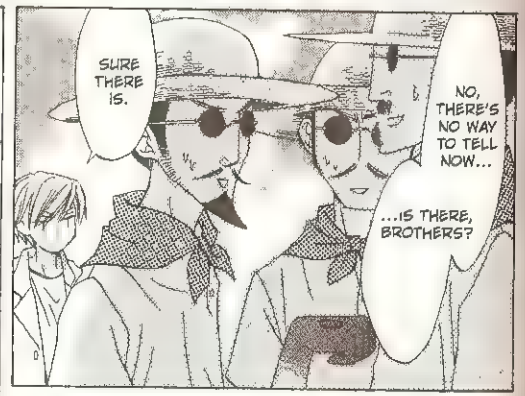

PSST...
PSST...
PSST...
EH?!
CELLO...
.....
THEIR TRICKERY SAVES US FROM GUESSWORK.
?
WHISPER...
I DON'T THINK THOSE MEN...
...ARE GOING TO USE THE SAME COIN THEY JUST SHOWED YOU.
RIGHT?
UH-HUH
WE SAW THEIR OTHER ONES BEFORE!
YANK
ALL RIGHT, HEADS...
DOCTOR! DOCTOR!
TUG TUG
DAD!
I SAY IT'S TIME TO LET MY FISTS DO THE TALKING...
...TO THESE BEARDED RASCALS!
WHAT?!
THEY'VE GOT CRAZY COINS! ONE HAS TWO HEADS AND ONE HAS TWO TAILS!
THEY WERE GOING TO SWITCH A FAKE ONE IN, EH? SO NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THE COIN WAS FLIPPED, IT'D ALWAYS COME UP THEIR SIDE!
EH?
FWISH
THE COIN TOSS IS FINE.
LET'S CONTINUE.
?
WHAT, YOU WANT TO USE KARATE ON THEM, DOCTOR ...?

The TRUTH of BAL
now on sale
BOOKS Global
HERE'S WHAT'S AT STAKE.
BUT REMEMBER, WHICHEVER SIDE WINS, THERE ARE NO SORE LOSERS!
WAVE
WAVE
WAVE
GROAN
OUR TAMBOURINES ...!
WHAP!
GO...
THE MAN SAID THERE'LL BE NO SORE LOSERS, CELLO.
OKAY!
READY?
-COUGH!-

FWAP
SPIN
I BELIEVE "HEADS" WAS YOUR CHOICE.
HEE HEE...
...YOUNG MAN IN THE WHITE COAT?
IF YOU'RE DONE CONSULTING IN HUSHED TONES...
WHY IS THAT YOUNG LADY SMELLING THE BULL...?
FOOO HAAA
YEP.
THAT'S A DEEP BREATHING EXERCISE.
THEREFORE, WE GET TAILS.
HUMMM...

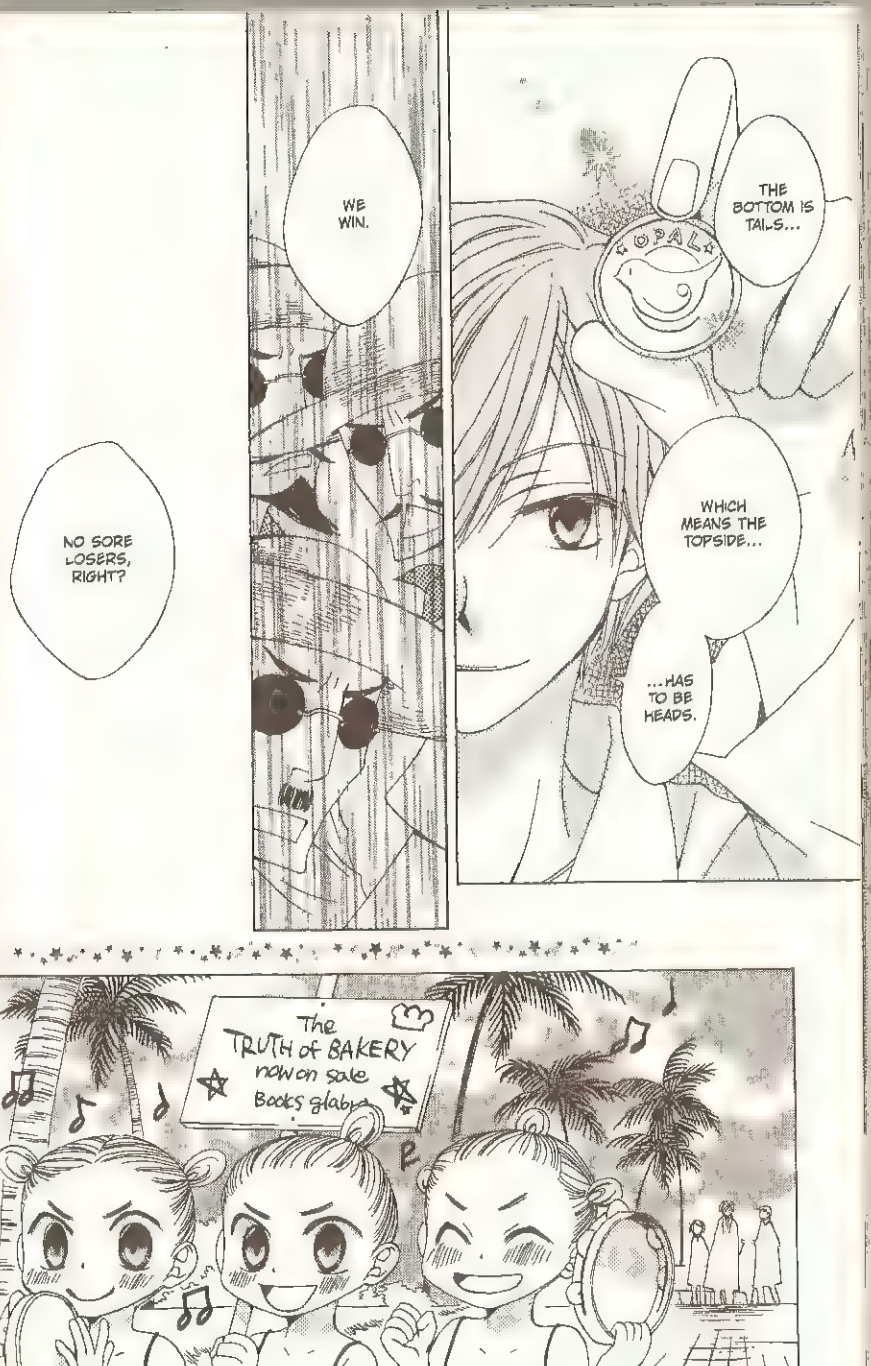
!!!
WAA!
WHAT IS THIS?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!
YOU TURNED HIS HANDS BLACK IN AN INSTANT!
OH!
AND EVEN THE COIN!
NOW WE WON'T KNOW WHO WON...

FWIP
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT THE UNDERSIDE OF THE COIN.
...OH, GOOD. THE UNDERSIDE DIDN'T GET COLORIZED.


SURE THERE IS.
NO, THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL NOW...
...IS THERE, BROTHERS?

MOO!
MOOO!
THE DOCTOR TOLD ME...
WHA--?!
...THAT IF BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN ARE THE SAME, THEN WE SHOULD JUST DO "SUBTRACTING"!
WHAT'S SHE DOING?! THE BULL'S TURNING WHITE...!!
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!!
EH?!
YOU'RE A PALETTE?!
NO? GOOD, THEN...
HAVEN'T YOU GENTLEMEN EVER SEEN THE "SECRET COLORS" CLOSE UP BEFORE?
FWOOP
FOO

IT'S JUST LIKE THE BOTTOM OF A BODY OF WATER.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, EVERYTHING GETS TAKEN IN QUIETLY... GENTLY...
NICE WORK, CELLO.
BYE BYE!
OH, IT WAS NOTHING.
AND CELLO!
THANK YOU, DR. GUELL!
WHAT?
MAYBE THE DOCTOR'S COOLNESS...
...ONE OF HIS GOOD POINTS.
...ACTUALLY IS...
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS, DR. WATERBOTTOM.
...BECAUSE OF THAT...
AND ALSO...
YOU WERE THINKING SOMETHING ELSE JUST NOW, WEREN'T YOU?
AH!
UMM...GOOD THING HE WAS HOLDING THE COIN DOWN FLAT.

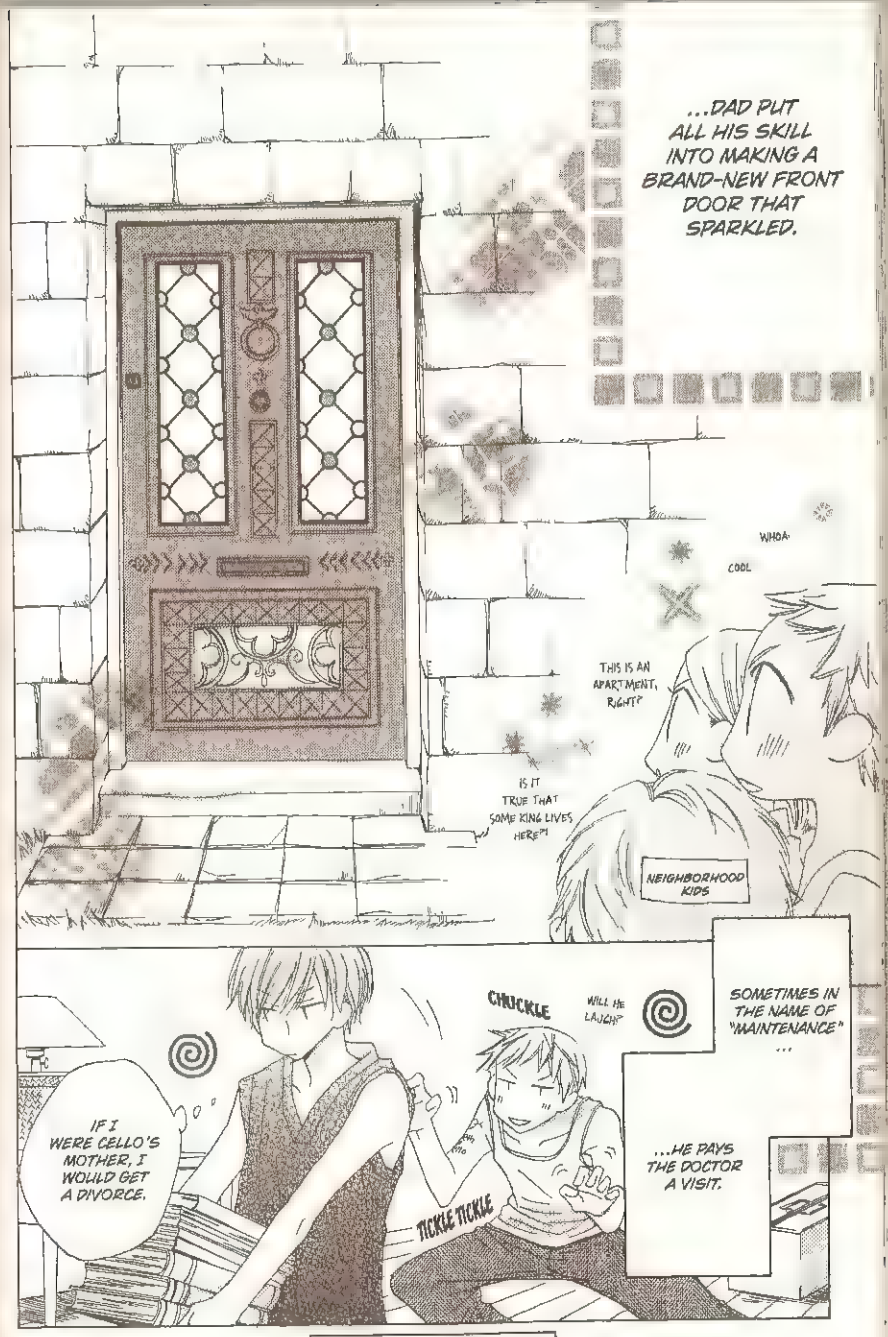

NO SORE LOSERS, RIGHT?
WE WIN.
THE BOTTOM IS TAILS...
WHICH MEANS THE TOPSIDE...
...HAS TO BE HEADS.
The TRUTH of BAKERY now on sale Books Glabra

I THINK WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY IS, "TAKE CARE OF MY DAUGHTER", THEO.
POP
I'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE!
Y'KNOW...
AND SO, THE DOCTOR'S FIRST HOME VIS T ENDED PEACEFUL..Y.
RATTLE RATTLE
HUH.
...I FEEL THE WAY I DID WHEN YOUR MOTHER FIRST SMILED AT ME. ♡
...RIGHT NOW, WHEN I LOOK AT DR. GUEL...
AS FOR THE DOCTOR'S APARTMENT...

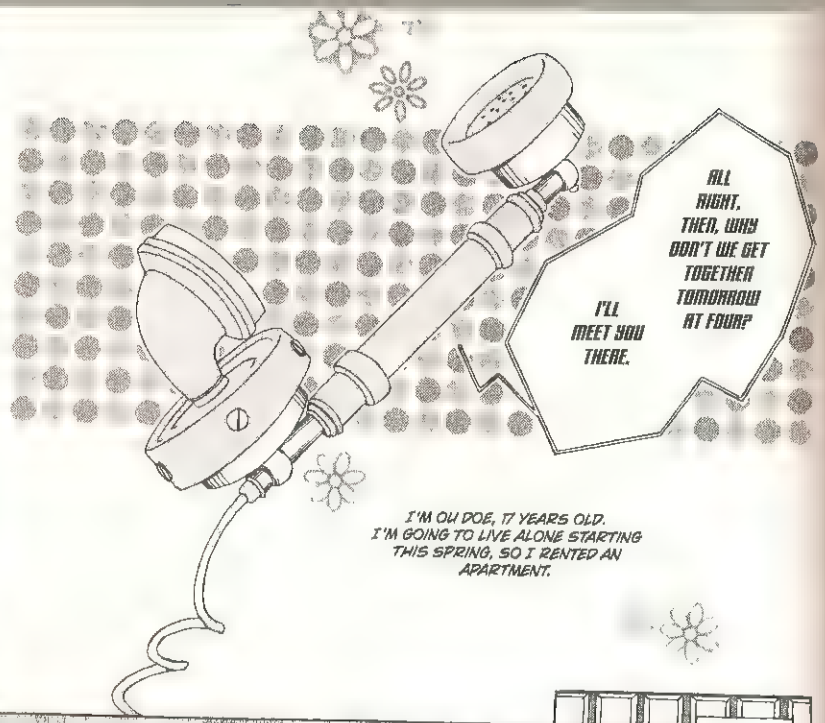
CHUCKLE
YOU'RE ACTING SUSPICIOUS, CEL..O.
...WHEN THERE IS A RIPPLE ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER...
DID YOU JU..T HEAR A NOI..E?
EEH?
D...
DOCTOR!!
YES?
GRAB
...SOMEHOW, IT SWEEPS YOU UP...
THUMP

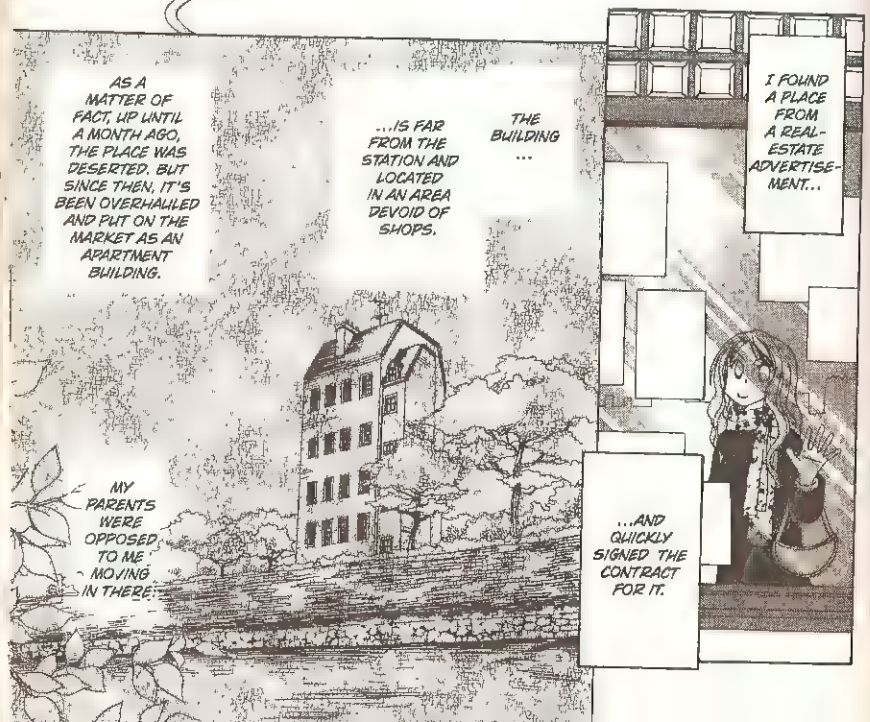
契約パピヨン

CONTRACT PAPILLON


...DAD PUT ALL HIS SKILL INTO MAKING A BRAND-NEW FRONT DOOR THAT SPARKLED.
WHOA
COOL
THIS IS AN APARTMENT, RIGHT?
IS IT TRUE THAT SOME KING LIVES HERE?!
NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS
CHUCKLE
WILL HE LAUGH?
SOMETIMES IN THE NAME OF "MAINTENANCE" ...
IF I WERE CELLO'S MOTHER, I WOULD GET A DIVORCE.
TICKLE TICKLE
...HE PAYS THE DOCTOR A VISIT.

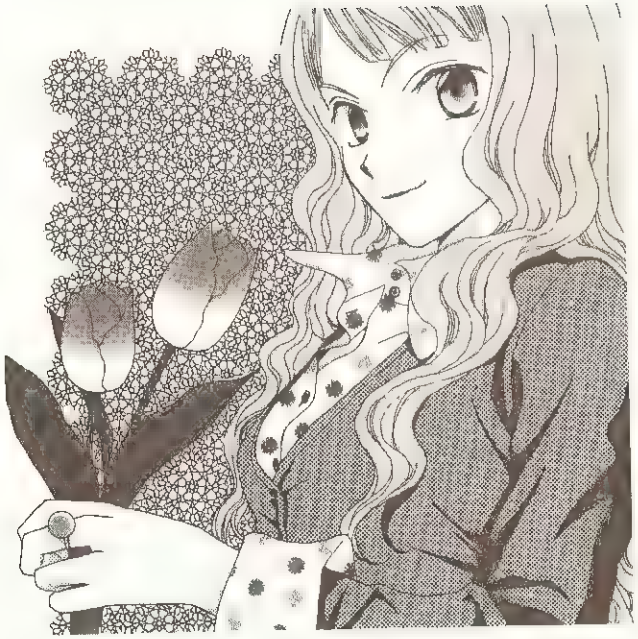
EPISODE 6: THE END

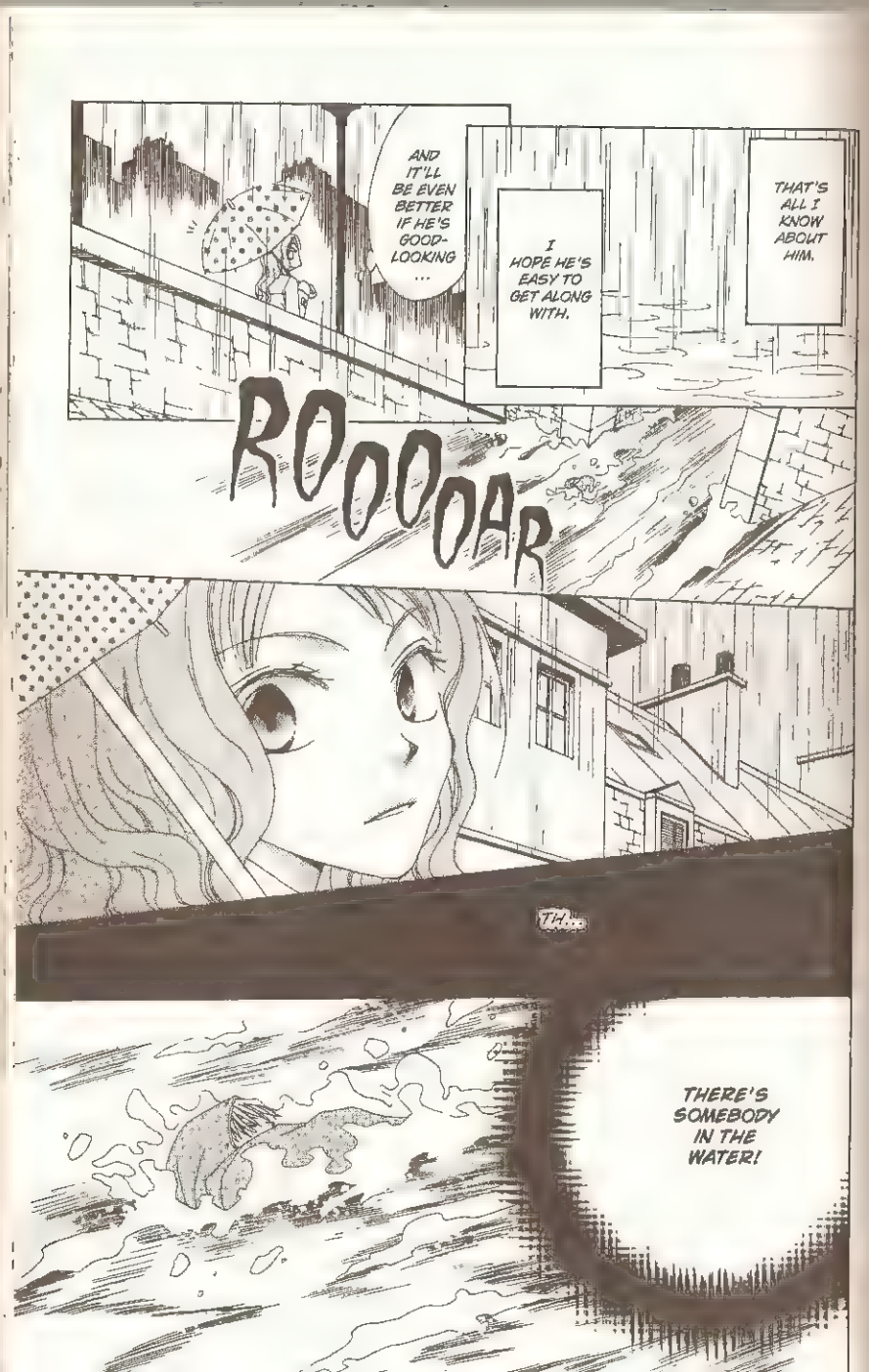

ALL RIGHT. THEN, WHY DON'T WE GET TOGETHER TOMORROW AT FOUR?
I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
I'M OU DOE, 17 YEARS OLD. I'M GOING TO LIVE ALONE STARTING THIS SPRING, SO I RENTED AN APARTMENT.

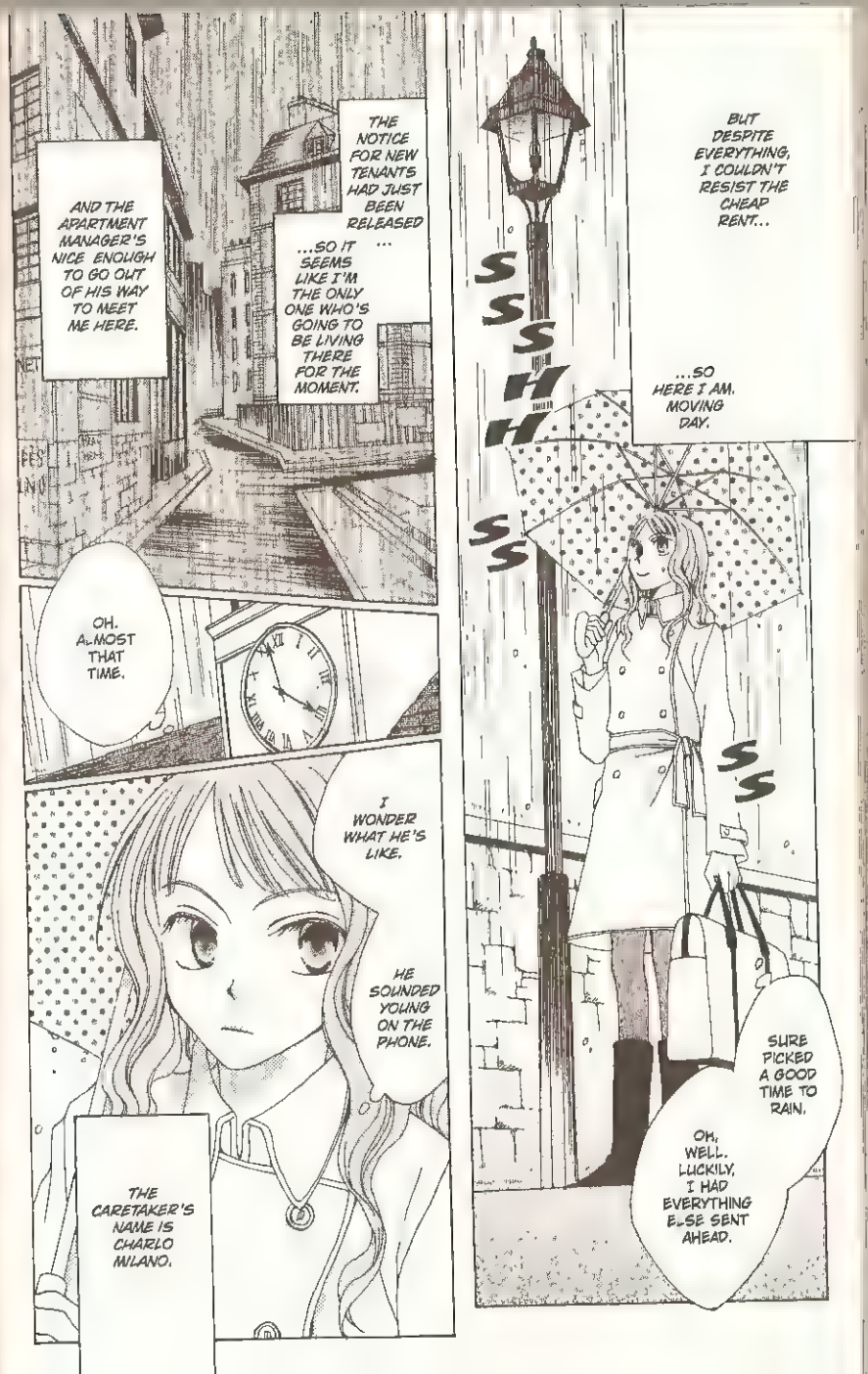

AS A MATTER OF FACT, UP UNTIL A MONTH AGO, THE PLACE WAS DESERTED. BUT SINCE THEN, IT'S BEEN OVERHAULED AND PUT ON THE MARKET AS AN APARTMENT BUILDING.
...IS FAR FROM THE STATION AND LOCATED IN AN AREA DEVOID OF SHOPS.
THE BUILDING ...
I FOUND A PLACE FROM A REAL-ESTATE ADVERTISE-MENT...
MY PARENTS WERE OPPOSED TO ME MOVING IN THERE.
...AND QUICKLY SIGNED THE CONTRACT FOR IT.

Contract papillon preview cut

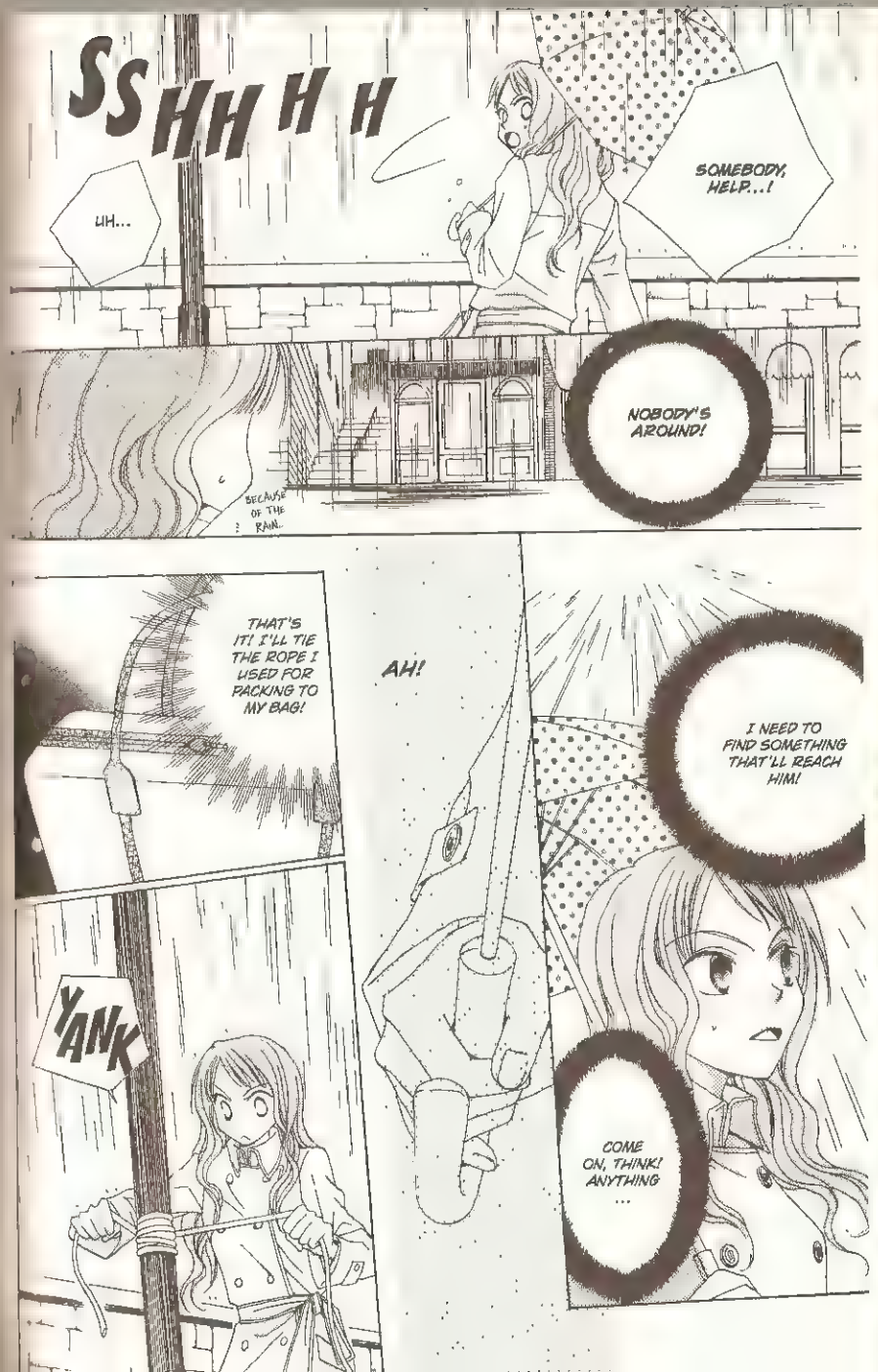
I drew the below with great zeal




AND IT'LL BE EVEN BETTER IF HE'S GOOD-LOOKING ...
I HOPE HE'S EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW ABOUT HIM.
ROOOOAR
TH...
THERE'S SOMEBODY IN THE WATER!


AND THE APARTMENT MANAGER'S NICE ENOUGH TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO MEET ME HERE.
THE NOTICE FOR NEW TENANTS HAD JUST BEEN RELEASED ...
...SO IT SEEMS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO BE LIVING THERE FOR THE MOMENT.
OH. ALMOST THAT TIME.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE.
HE SOUNDED YOUNG ON THE PHONE.
THE CARETAKER'S NAME IS CHARLO MILANO.
BUT DESPITE EVERYTHING, I COULDN'T RESIST THE CHEAP RENT...
...SO HERE I AM. MOVING DAY.
SSSHH
SS
SS
SURE PICKED A GOOD TIME TO RAIN.
OH, WELL. LUCKILY, I HAD EVERYTHING ELSE SENT AHEAD.

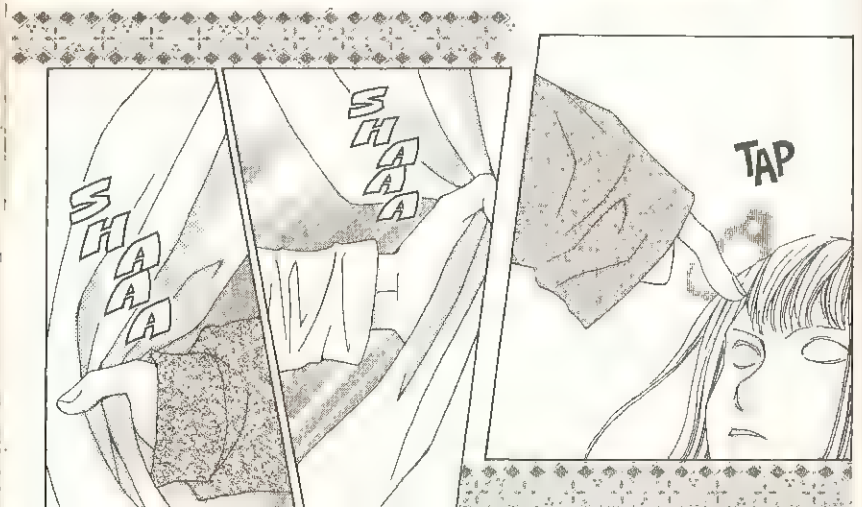
HERE!
GRAB HOLD OF THIS!!
ROOARR
SPLASH

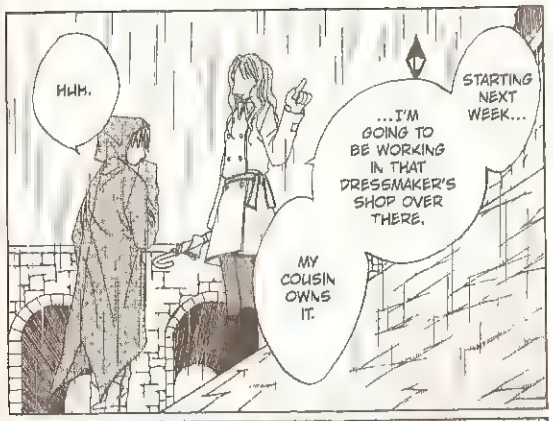

SSHHHH
UH...
SOMEBODY, HELP...!
NOBODY'S AROUND!
BECAUSE OF THE RAIN.
THAT'S IT! I'LL TIE THE ROPE I USED FOR PACKING TO MY BAG!
AH!
I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING THAT'LL REACH HIM!
YANK
COME ON, THINK! ANYTHING ...

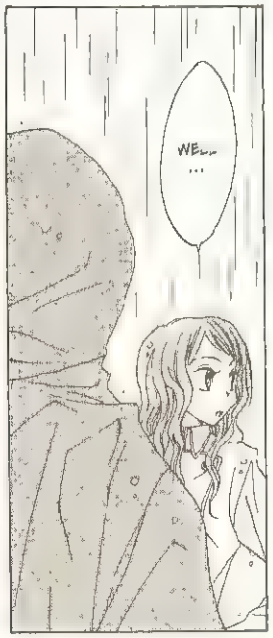
ANYWAY, AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
YOU'RE LUCKY.
...YEP.
THANKS FOR THIS.
I'M OKAY! I'M OKAY!
GRAB
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO RIDE IN AN AMBULANCE, SO...I THINK I'M GONNA CALL!!
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR CURIOSITY ABOUT THE AMBULANCE WON'T BE SATISFIED...
...BUT REALLY, DON'T BOTHER.
ARE YOU SURE?
KOFF
YOU SAVED ME.
SORRY YOU HAD TO GET SOAKED, TOO, THOUGH.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

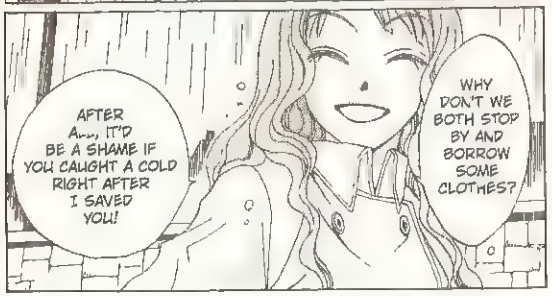
FOR JUST A MOMENT, I THOUGHT I COULD SEE A LIGHT FLOATING AROUND HIS BODY...
...BUT I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
SSSHHHH
IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION, RIGHT...?
SINCE YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING, MAYBE I SHOULD CALL AN AMBULANCE...
KOFF
KOFF
OH...YOU SWALLOWED WATER!
ARE YOU HURT?

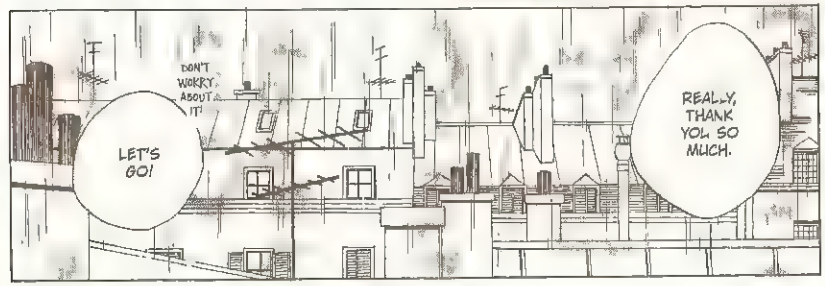
THANK YOU, INEZ.
THAT GOES FOR YOUR FRIEND, TOO.
I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.
BOW
I SEE...
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU LOOKED LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN, OU.
IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE, DIG UP SOMETHING FROM THAT MOUNTAIN OF CLOTHES OVER THERE.

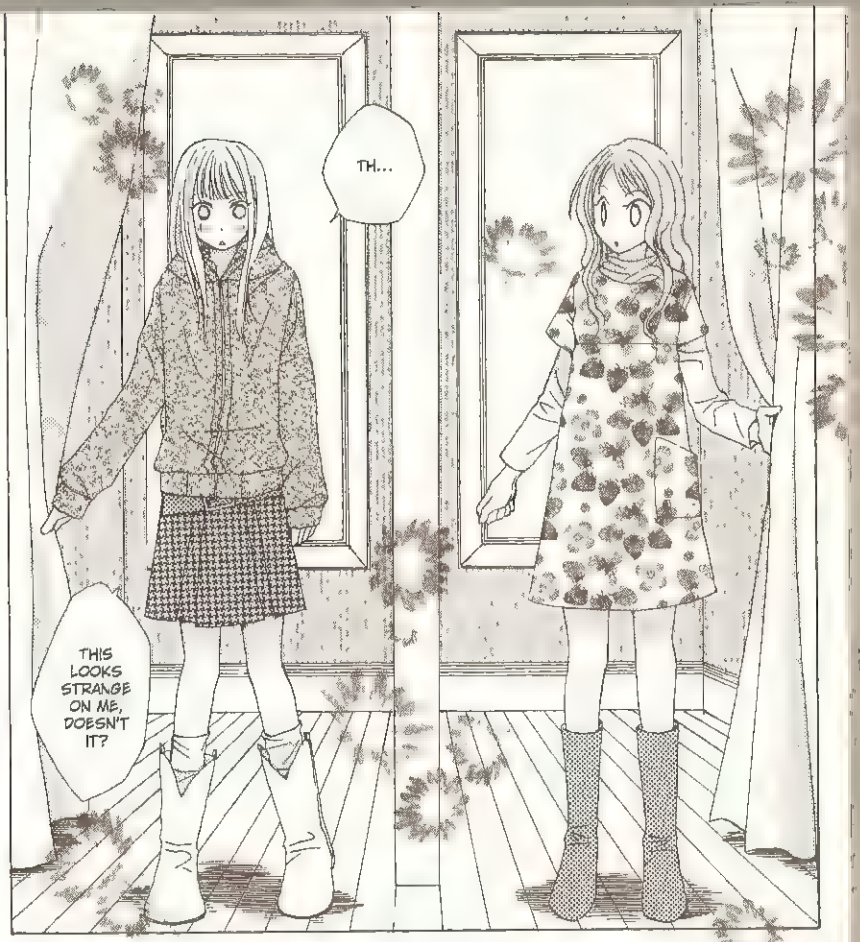

SHAAA
SHAAA
TAP

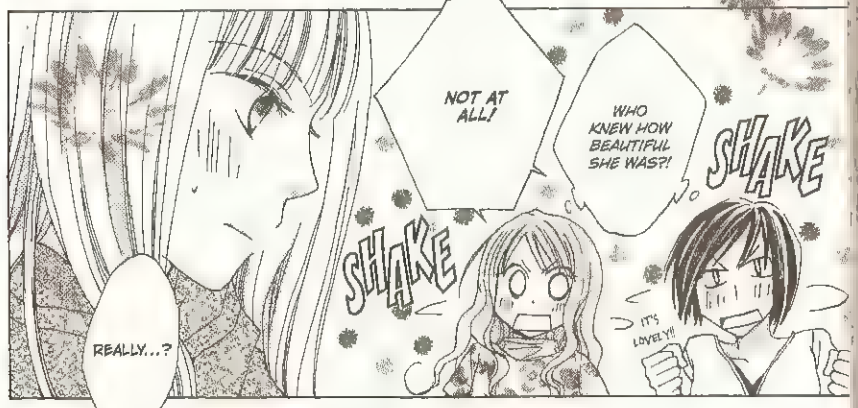

HMH.
...I'M GOING TO BE WORKING IN THAT DRESSMAKER'S SHOP OVER THERE.
STARTING NEXT WEEK...
MY COUSIN OWNS IT.

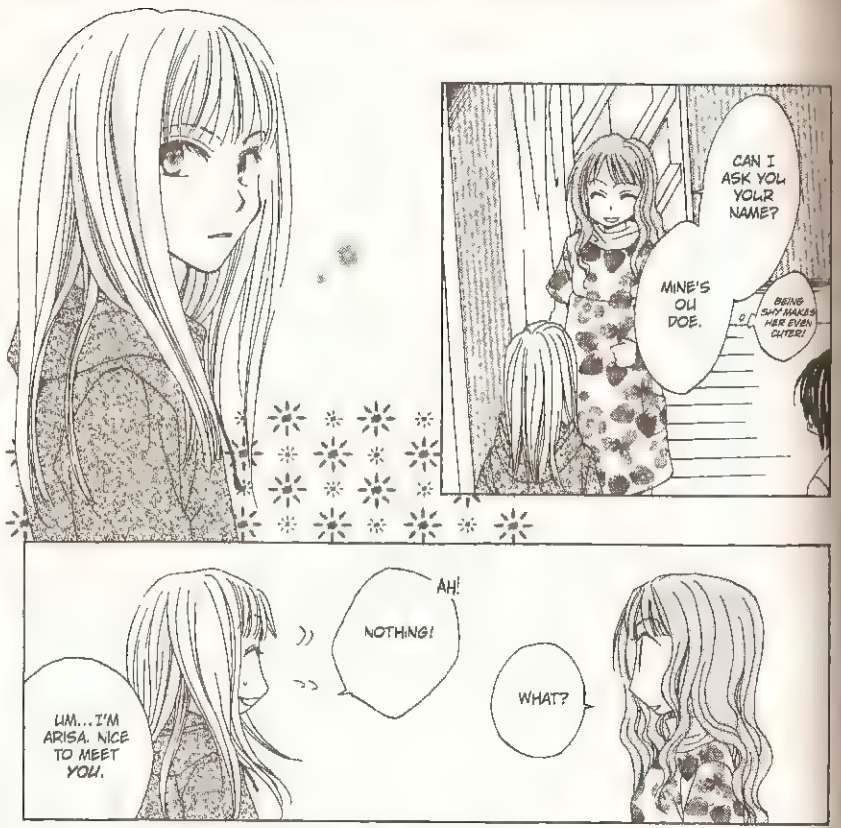

WE...

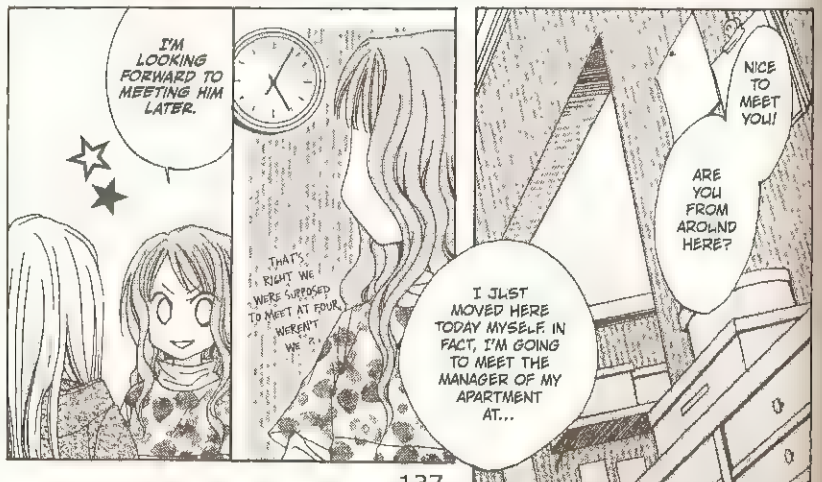

AFTER A..., IT'D BE A SHAME IF YOU CAUGHT A COLD RIGHT AFTER I SAVED YOU!
WHY DON'T WE BOTH STOP BY AND BORROW SOME CLOTHES?

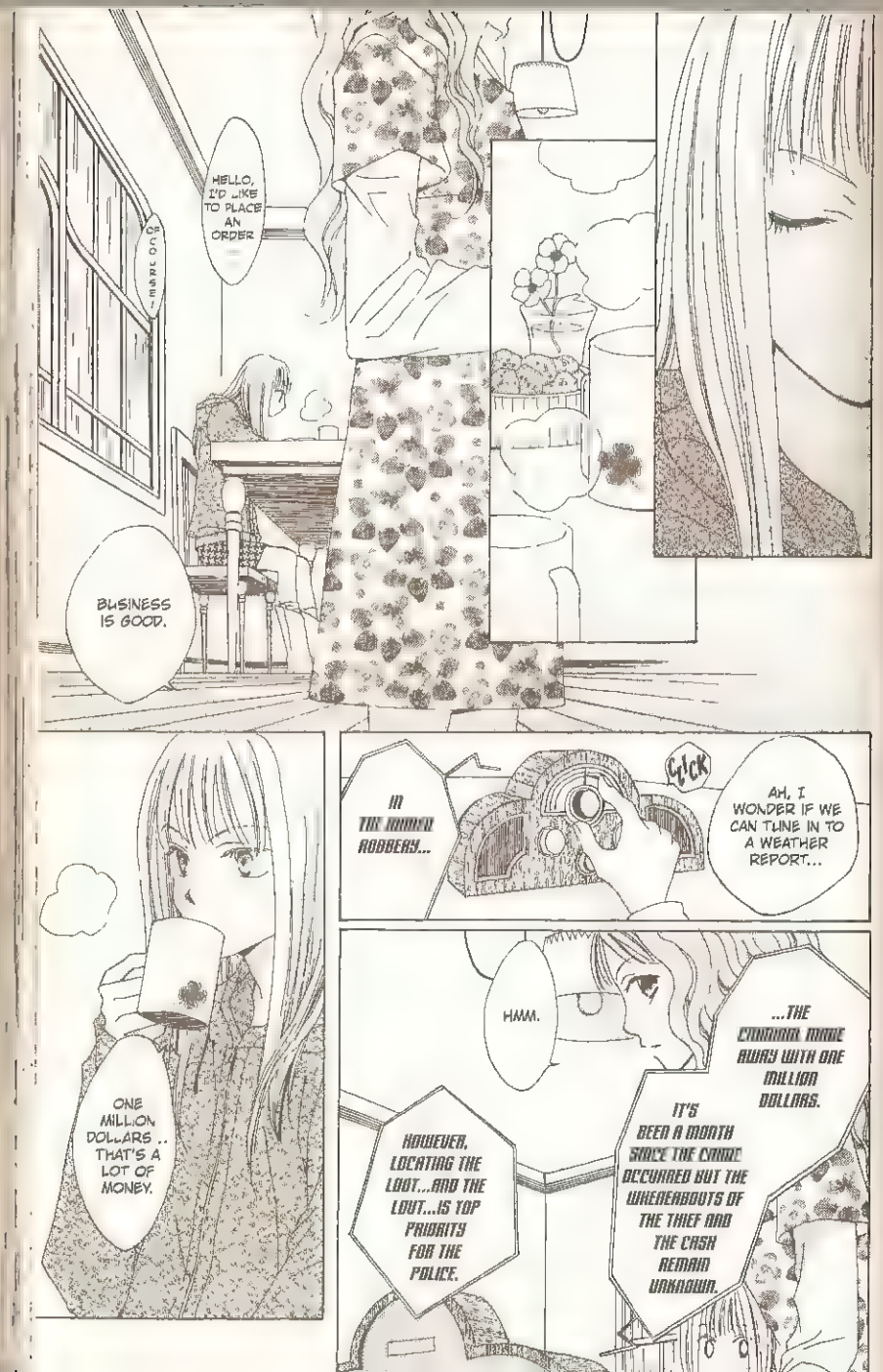

LET'S GO!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
REALLY, THANK YOU SO MUCH.


TH...
THIS LOOKS STRANGE ON ME, DOESN'T IT?

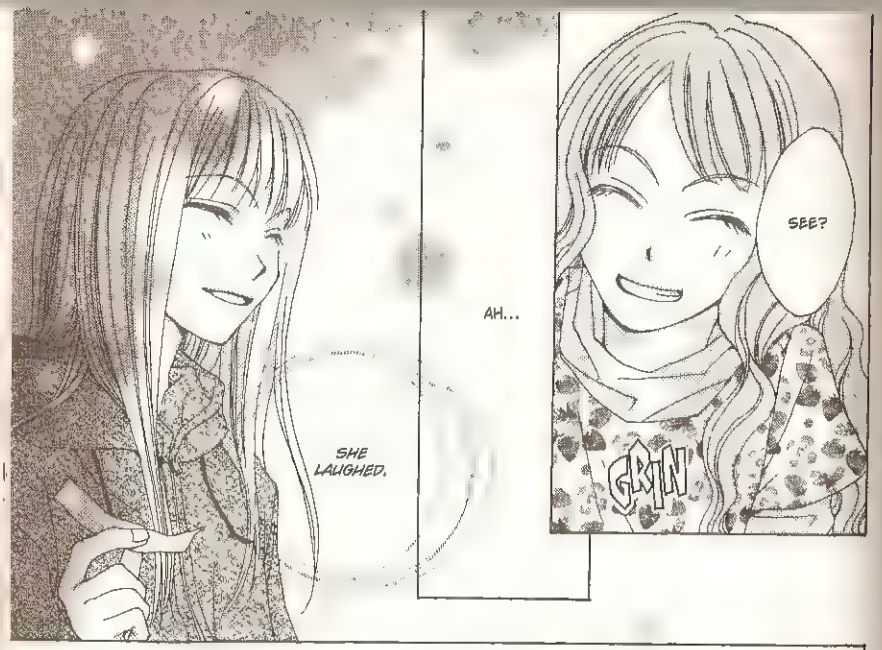

NOT AT ALL!
WHO KNEW HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE WAS?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
IT'S LOVELY!!
REALLY...?

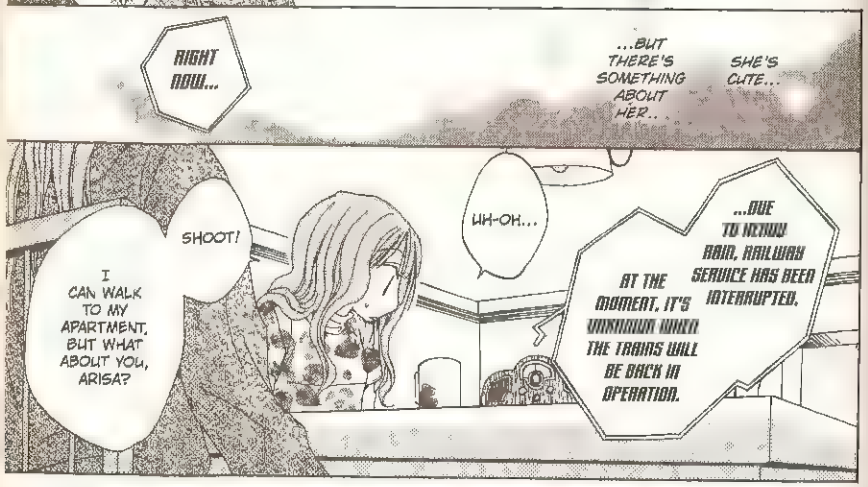

CAN I ASK YOU YOUR NAME?
MINE'S OU DOE.
BEING SHY MAKES HER EVEN CUTER!
AH!
NOTHING!
WHAT?
UM... I'M ARISA. NICE TO MEET YOU.

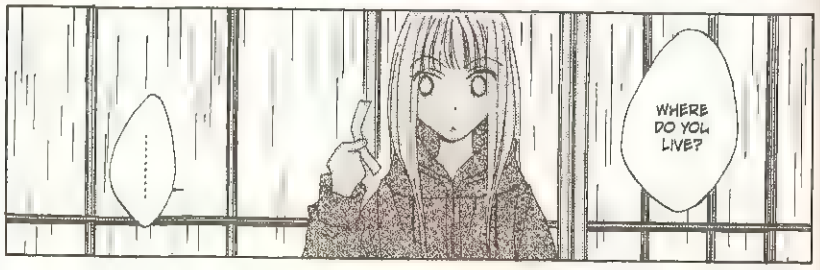

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING HIM LATER.
THAT'S RIGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET AT FOUR, WEREN'T WE?
NICE TO MEET YOU!
ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
I JUST MOVED HERE TODAY MYSELF IN FACT, I'M GOING TO MEET THE MANAGER OF MY APARTMENT AT...

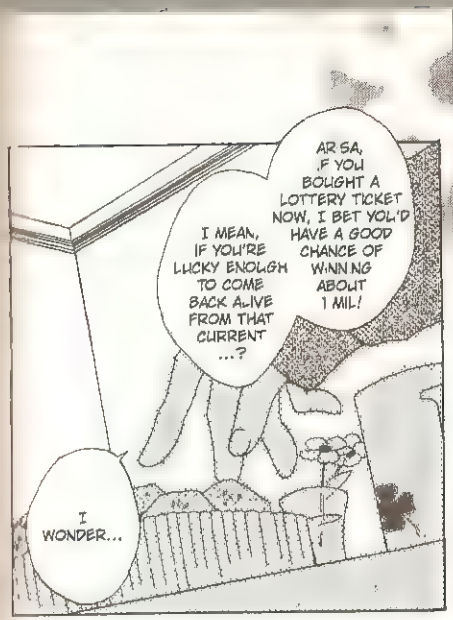

HELLO, I'D LIKE TO PLACE AN ORDER
OF MARIJUANA
BUSINESS IS GOOD.
IN THE RANGER ROBBERY...
CLICK
AH, I WONDER IF WE CAN TUNE IN TO A WEATHER REPORT...
ONE MILLION DOLLARS .. THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY.
HMM.
...THE CRIMINAL MADE AWAY WITH ONE MILLION DOLLARS.
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE THE CRIME OCCURRED BUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE THIEF AND THE CASH REMAIN UNKNOWN.
HOWEVER, LOCATING THE LOOT...AND THE LOUT...IS TOP PRIORITY FOR THE POLICE.

AND I THOUGHT I'D JUST BE RESTING ON MY LAURELS TODAY...
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A CUSTOMER.
YES, WE ARE!
HELLO? ARE YOU OPEN?
HELP YOURSELVES TO WHATEVER'S BACK THERE. FOOD, DRINKS...
I KNOW I'VE GOT SNACKS!
THANK YOU!
SPLOOSH
SSSHHH

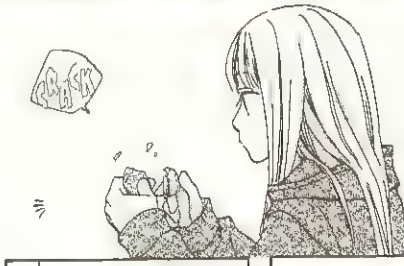

SHE LAUGHED.
AH...
SEE?
GRIN

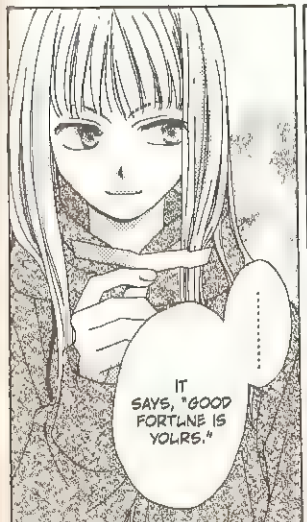

RIGHT NOW...
...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER..
SHE'S CUTE...
SHOOT!
I CAN WALK TO MY APARTMENT. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, ARISA?
UH-OH...
AT THE MOMENT, IT'S UNKNOWN WHEN THE TRAINS WILL BE BACK IN OPERATION.
...DUE TO HEAVY RAIN, RAILWAY SERVICE HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED.


WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

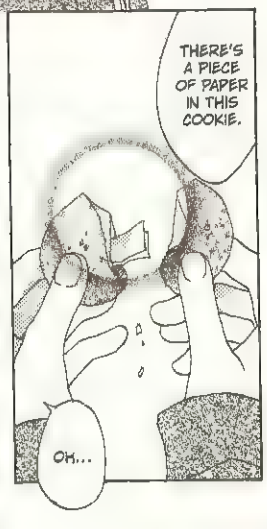

I WONDER...
I MEAN, IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO COME BACK ALIVE FROM THAT CURRENT ...?
AR SA, IF YOU BOUGHT A LOTTERY TICKET NOW, I BET YOU'D HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING ABOUT 1 MIL!

CHUCKLE
I BET HAVING THAT MUCH COULD SCREW YOUR LIFE UP! ♡
WHAT WOULD I DO WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY?
MAYBE JUST PUT IT IN THE BANK...


CRACK


IT SAYS, "GOOD FORTUNE IS YOURS."

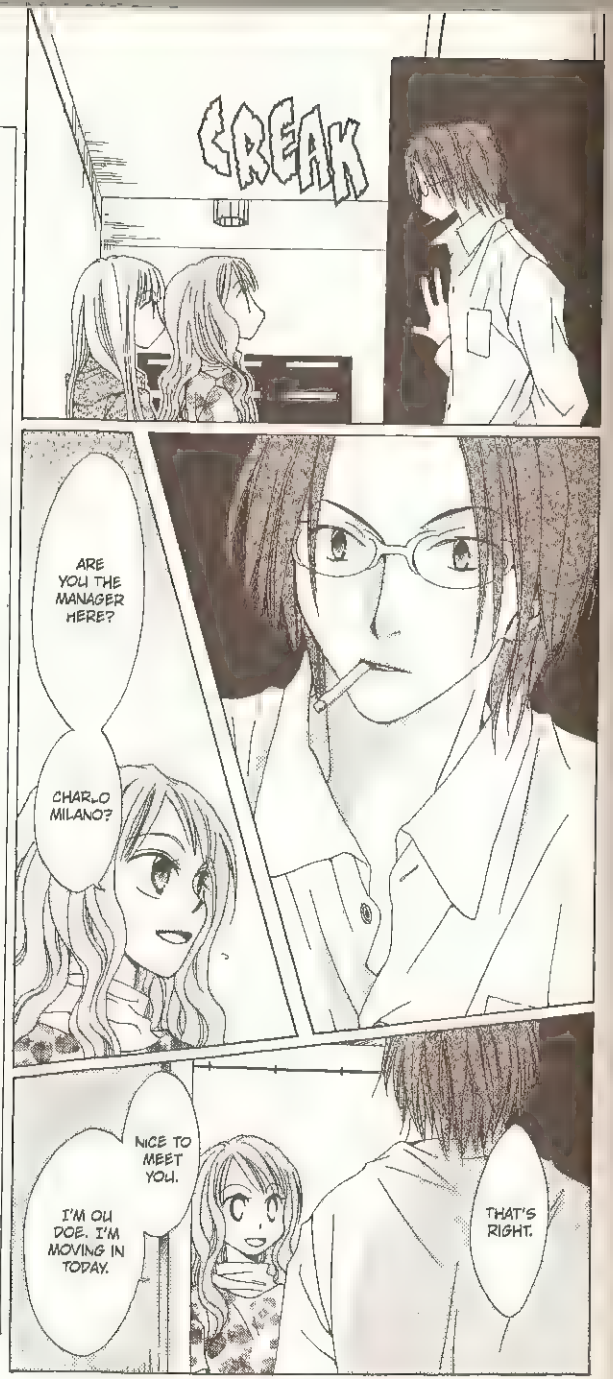
LET'S SEE...
DID YOU WIN SOMETHING?

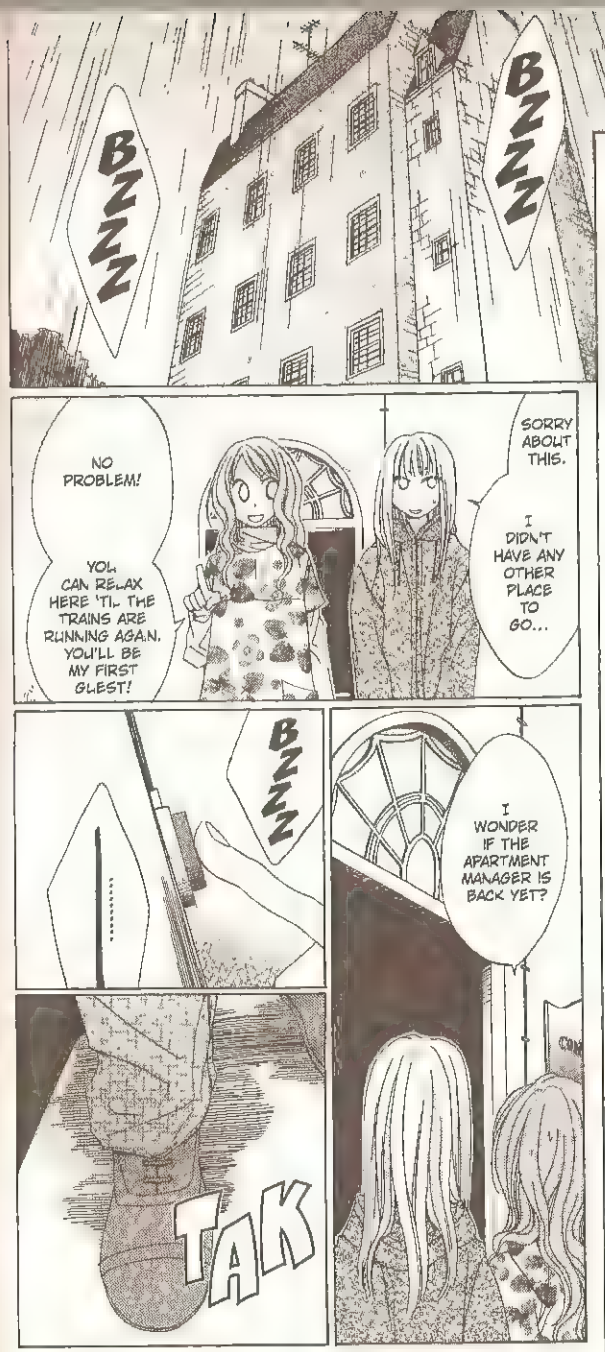

THERE'S A PIECE OF PAPER IN THIS COOKIE.
OH...

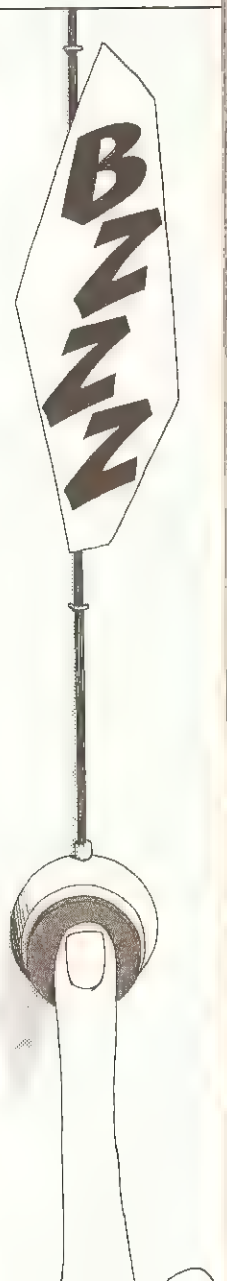
7.

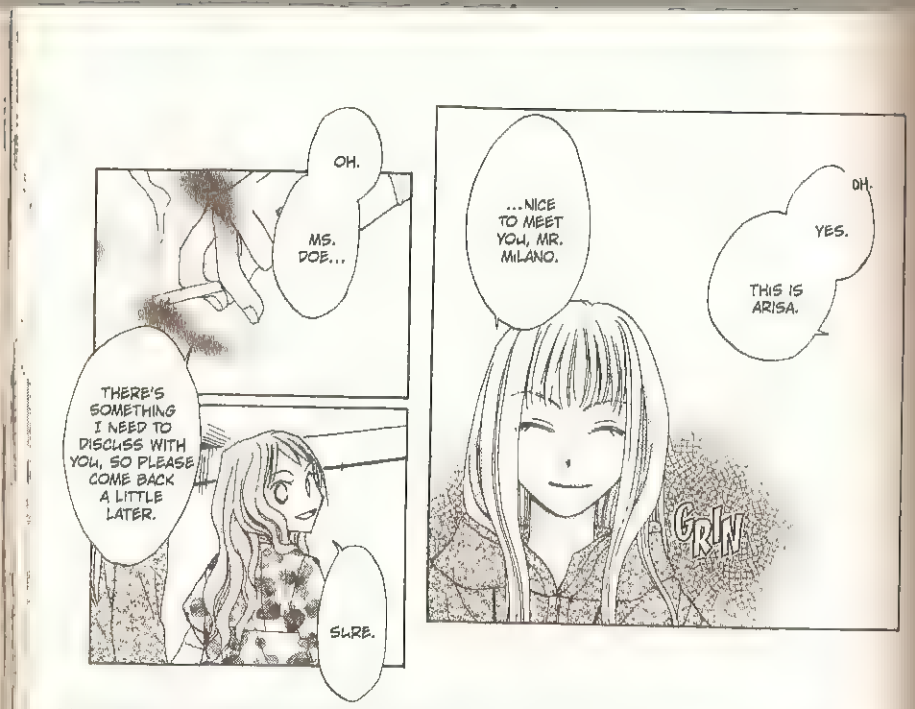
ABOUT HOODS... THIS ONE TIME WHEN I WAS WALKING, I CAME ACROSS SOMEONE WHO WAS HANDING OUT TISSUES, BUT INSTEAD OF TAKING THE FREEBIE, I WALKED RIGHT PAST HIM. BUT AS I DID SO, HE DROPPED TWO OR THREE OF THE LITTLE PACKS INTO THE HOOD OF MY SWEATSHIRT. IT WAS A LITTLE IRRITATING...

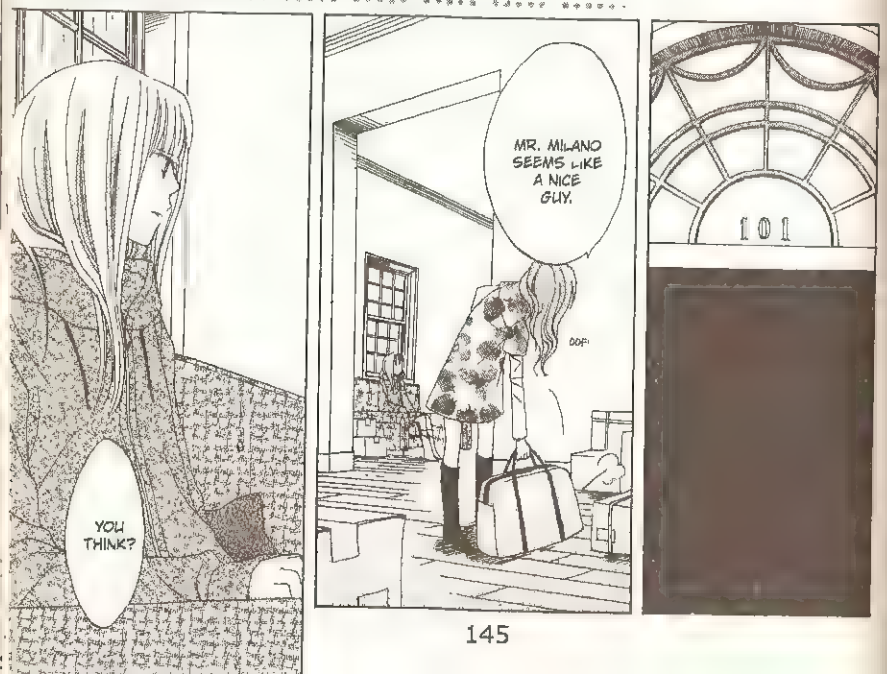
THIS ONE IS SHORT, ISN'T IT?



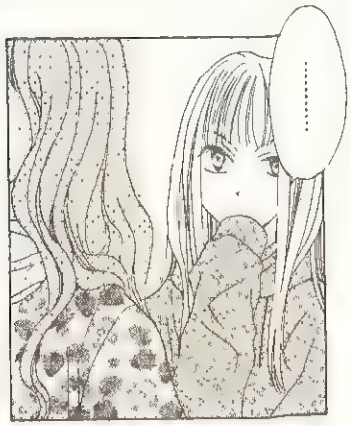

BZZZ
BZZZ
NO PROBLEM!
YOU CAN RELAX HERE 'TIL THE TRAINS ARE RUNNING AGAIN. YOU'LL BE MY FIRST GUEST!
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER PLACE TO GO...
BZZZ
TAK
I WONDER IF THE APARTMENT MANAGER IS BACK YET?




OH.
MS. DOE...
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, SO PLEASE COME BACK A LITTLE LATER.
SURE.
...NICE TO MEET YOU, MR. MILANO.
OH.
YES.
THIS IS ARISA.
GRIN


YOU THINK?
MR. MILANO SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY.
DOF!
101

OH... REALLY?
ACTUALLY, SOMETHING CAME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE FOR ME, TOO, AND I COULDN'T MAKE IT, SO I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU HERE.
UM...
I'M SORRY FOR STANDING YOU UP.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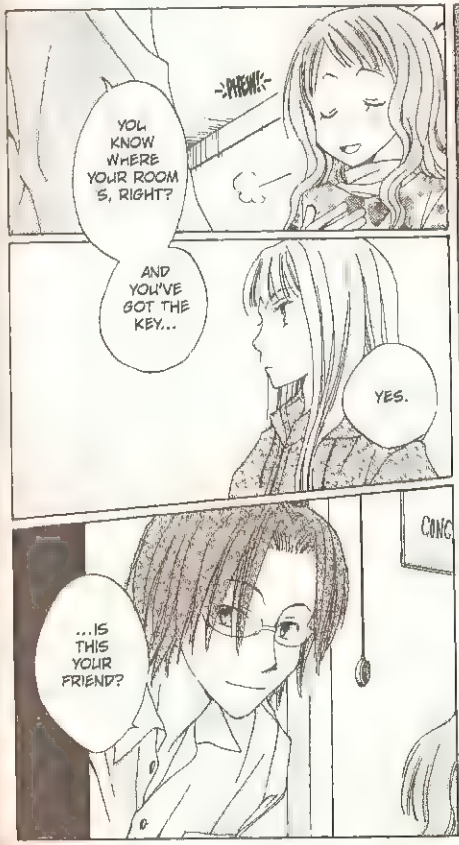
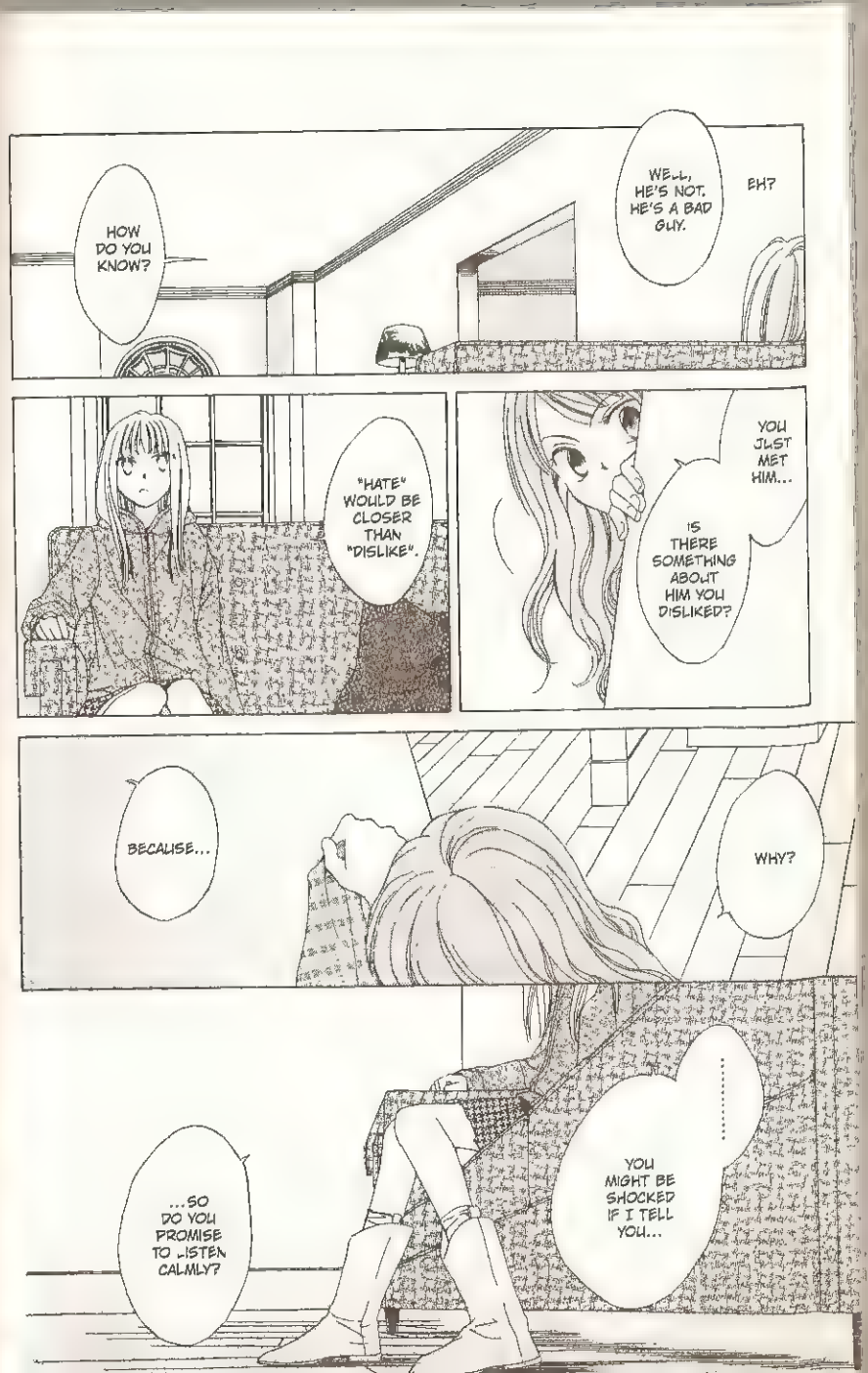
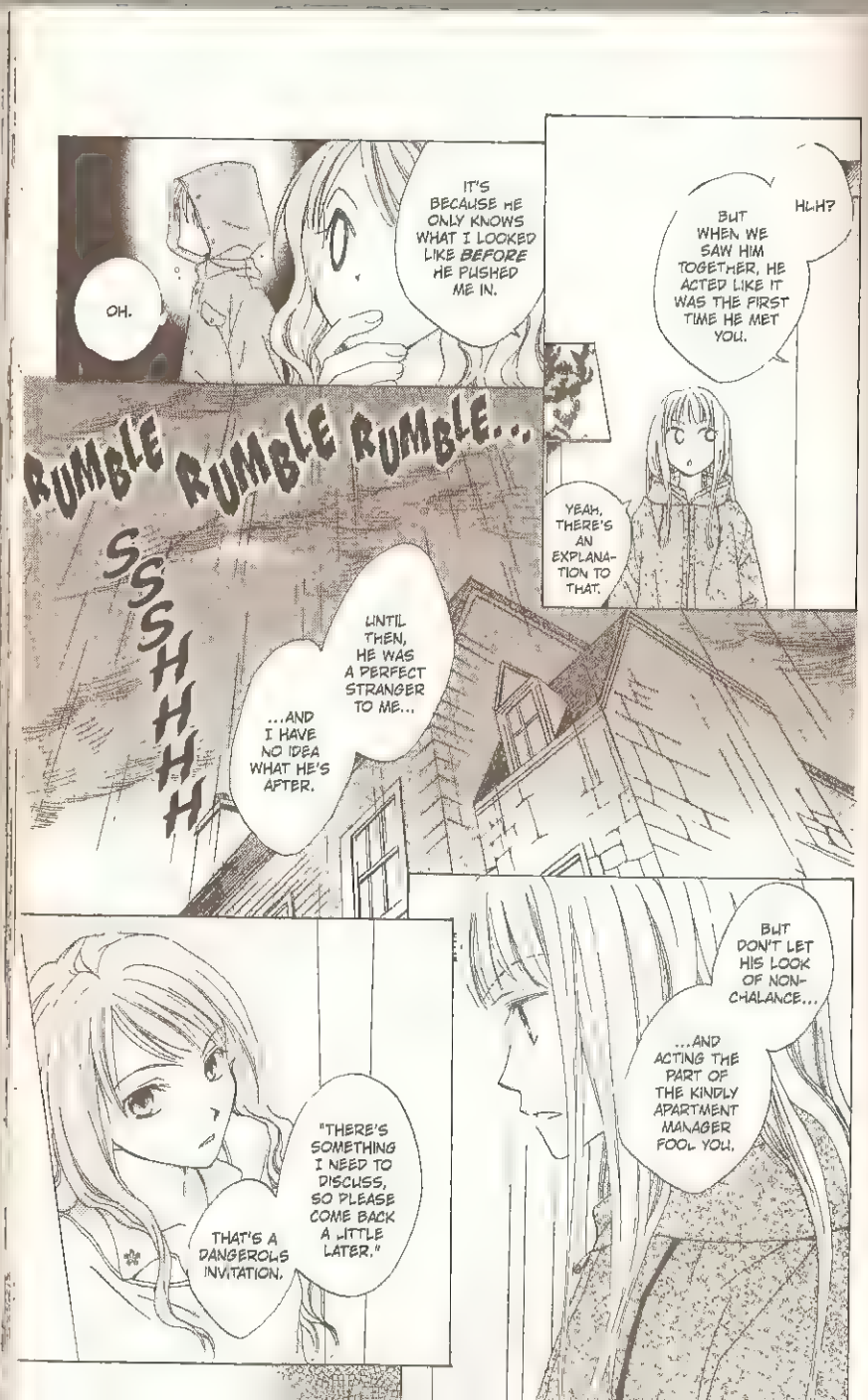
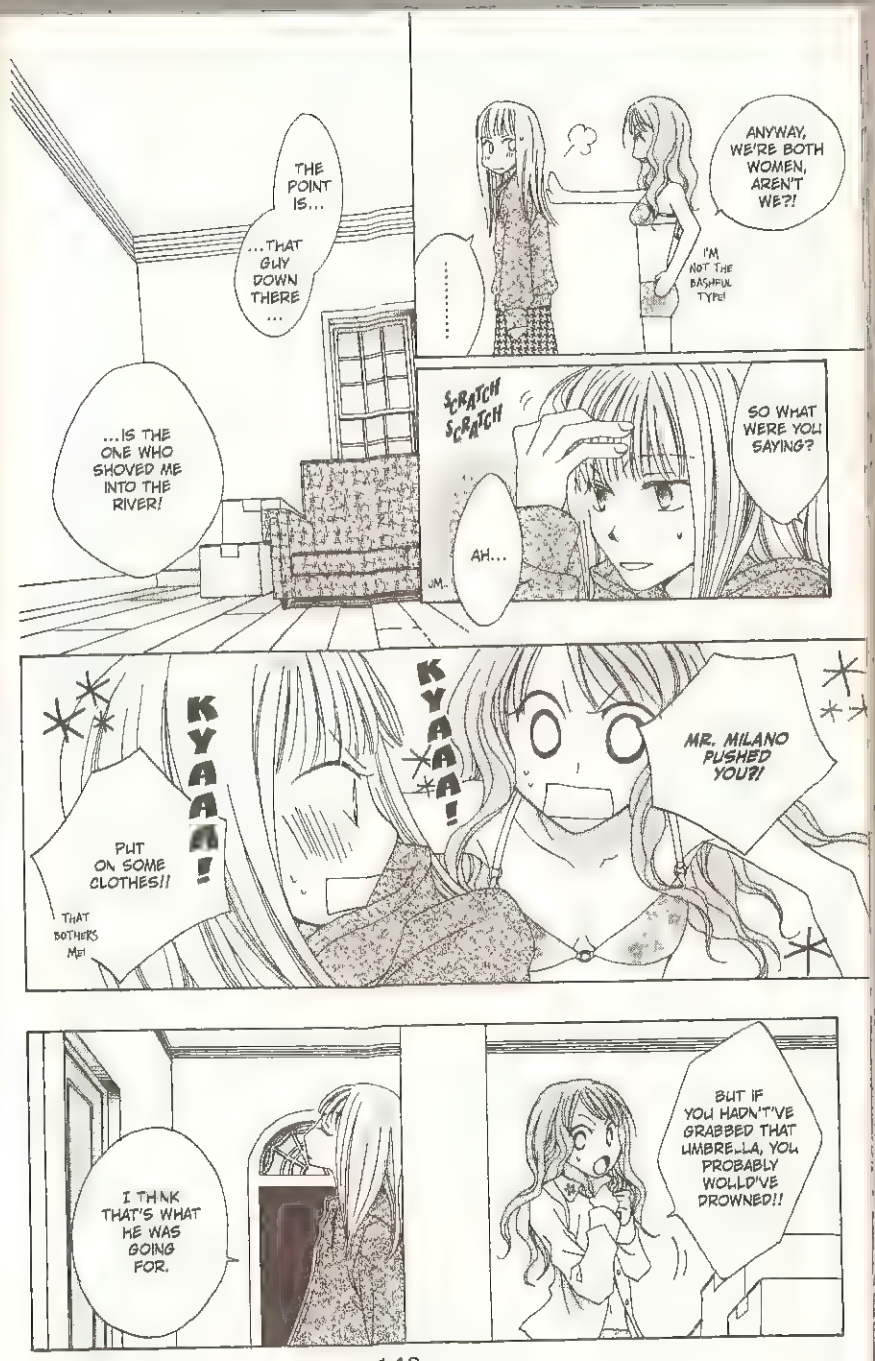

-PATCH!-
YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR ROOM IS, RIGHT?
AND YOU'VE GOT THE KEY...
YES.
CONC
...IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?

I FELT GUILTY FOR LEAVING YOU IN THE LURCH, ESPECIALLY IN RAIN LIKE THIS...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND YOUR WAY HERE ALRIGHT.
GRIN

BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'M...
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER HIM LOOKING LIKE THIS...
...AND I SWEAR I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE.
OF COURSE.
ERR...
...I'M...
OWAAA!
FLUTTER
OH, SORRY!
IT DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT WEARING BORROWED CLOTHES IN MY OWN APARTMENT, SO...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE CLOTHES, WARN ME FIRST!
YOU ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK
HIGH-HEEL


HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WELL, HE'S NOT. HE'S A BAD GUY.
EH?
"HATE" WOULD BE CLOSER THAN "DISLIKE".
YOU JUST MET HIM...
IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT HIM YOU DISLIKED?
BECAUSE...
WHY?
.....
YOU MIGHT BE SHOCKED IF I TELL YOU...
...SO DO YOU PROMISE TO LISTEN CALMLY?


OH.
IT'S BECAUSE HE ONLY KNOWS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE *BEFORE* HE PUSHED ME IN.
HUH?
BUT WHEN WE SAW HIM TOGETHER, HE ACTED LIKE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE MET YOU.
YEAH, THERE'S AN EXPLANATION TO THAT.
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE...
SSSHHHH
UNTIL THEN, HE WAS A PERFECT STRANGER TO ME...
...AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S AFTER.
"THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DISCUSS, SO PLEASE COME BACK A LITTLE LATER."
THAT'S A DANGEROUS INVITATION.
BUT DON'T LET HIS LOOK OF NON-CHALANCE...
...AND ACTING THE PART OF THE KINDLY APARTMENT MANAGER FOOL YOU.


ANYWAY, WE'RE BOTH WOMEN, AREN'T WE?!
I'M NOT THE BASHFUL TYPE!
THE POINT IS...
...THAT GUY DOWN THERE ...
...IS THE ONE WHO SHOVED ME INTO THE RIVER!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SO WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
AH...
KYAA!
KYAAA!
MR. MILANO PUSHED YOU?!
PUT ON SOME CLOTHES!!
THAT BOTHERS ME!
I THINK THAT'S WHAT HE WAS GOING FOR.
BUT IF YOU HADN'T'VE GRABBED THAT UMBRELLA, YOU PROBABLY WOULD'VE DROWNED!!

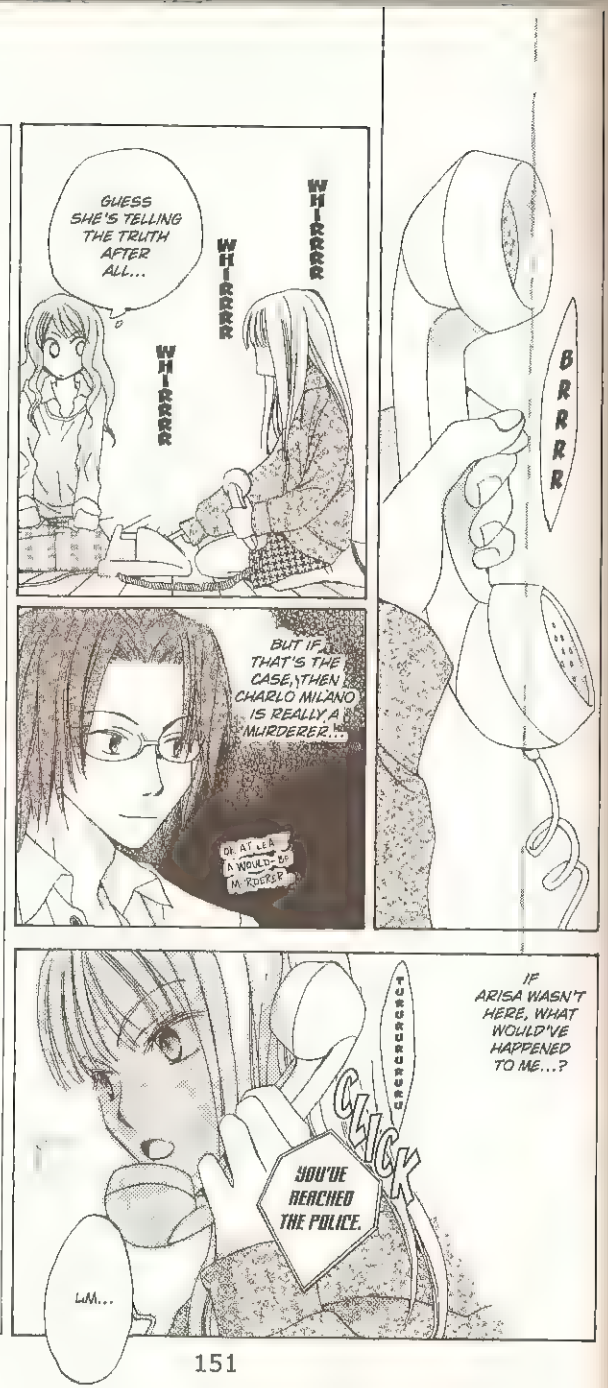
8.

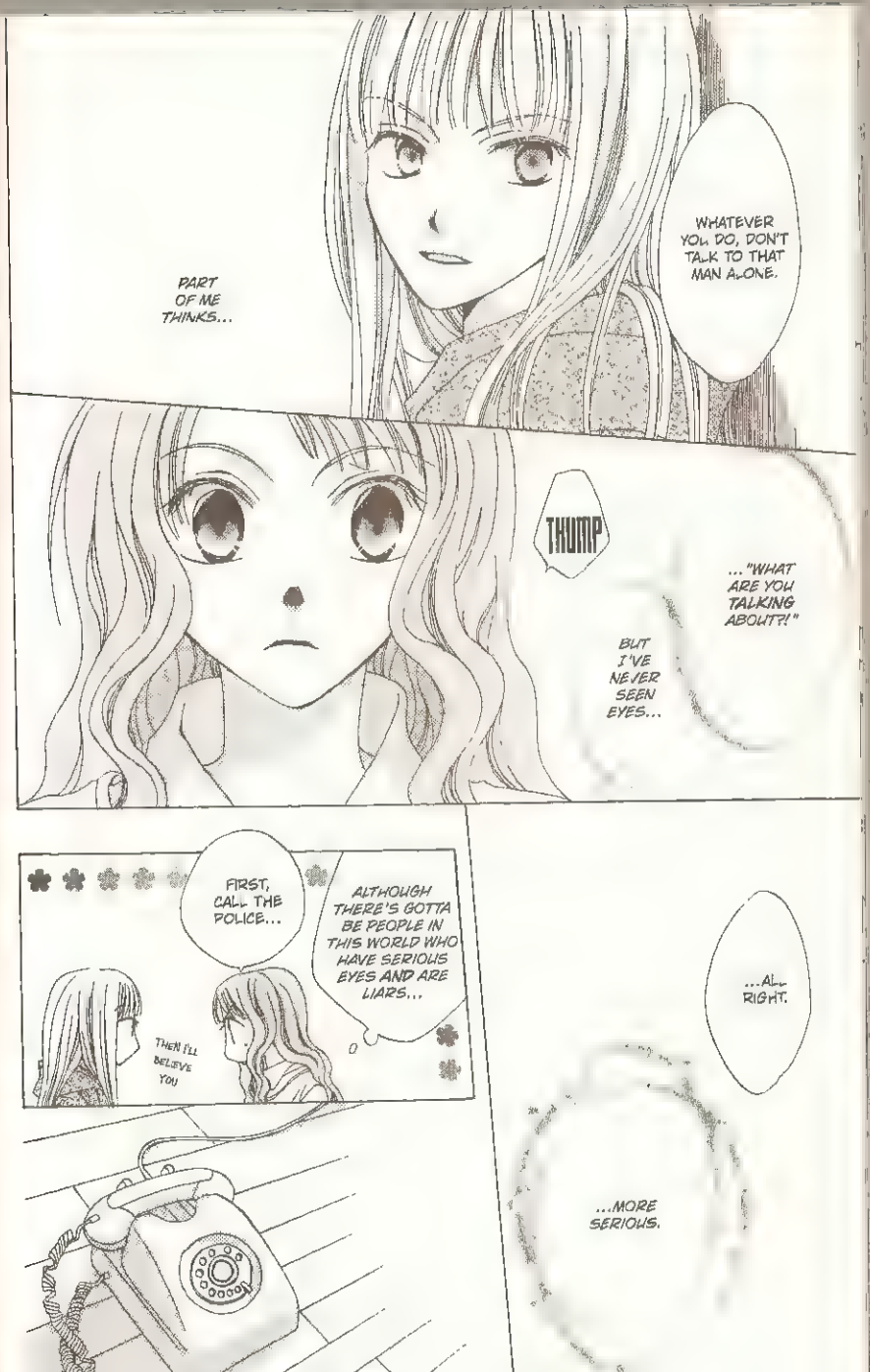
I FINALLY MADE UP MY MIND AND CREATED A SITE. I PUT ALL KINDS OF WORK-RELATED INFO ON THERE, SO CHECK IT OUT IF YOU HAVE TIME. "LOTUS POSITION" HYPERLINK "HTTP://LOTUS.HER/JP/" HTTP://LOTUS.HER/JP/

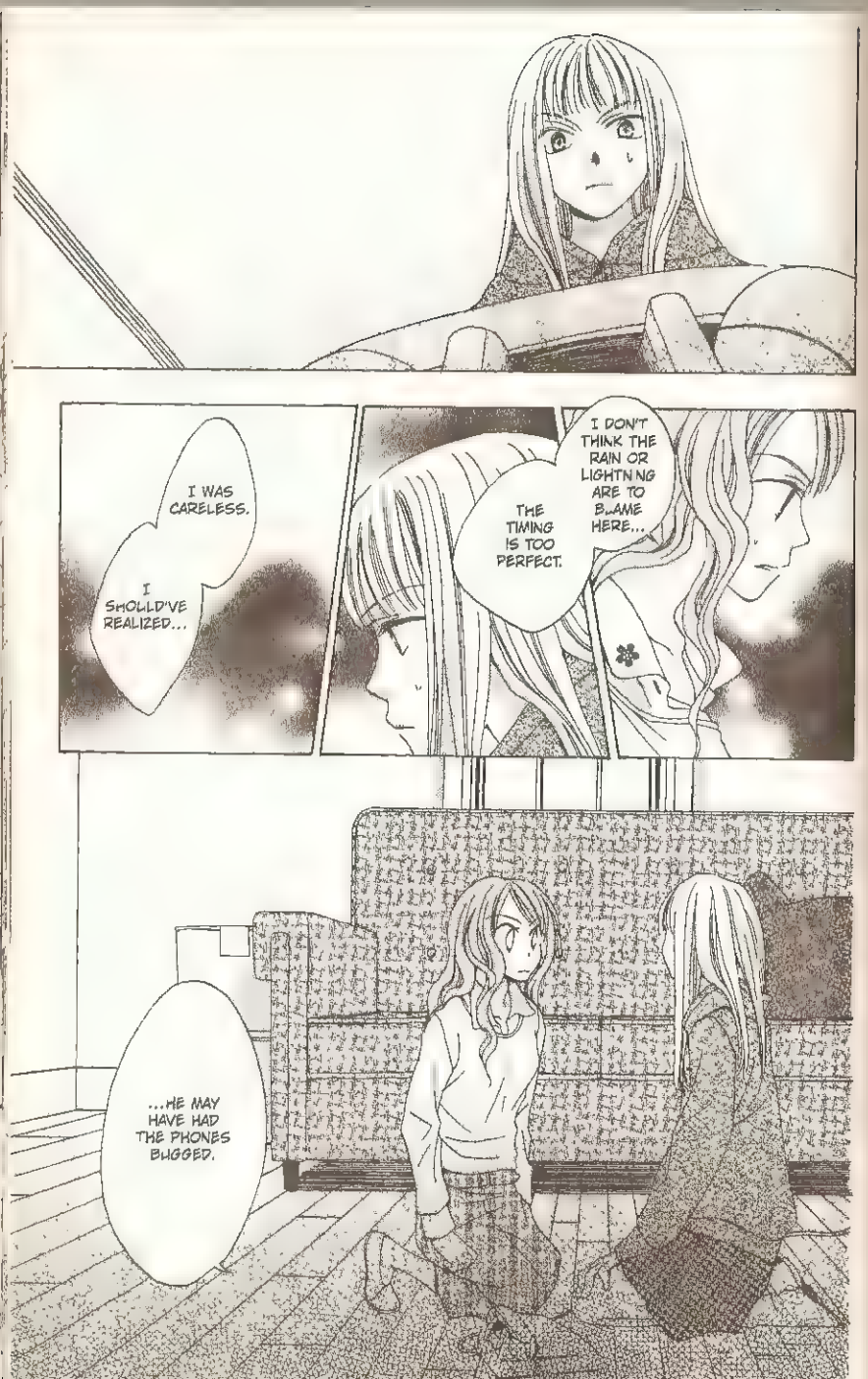
(EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS WAS WRITTEN IN 2005 AND THE SITE SEEMS TO BE NO LONGER ACTIVE.)

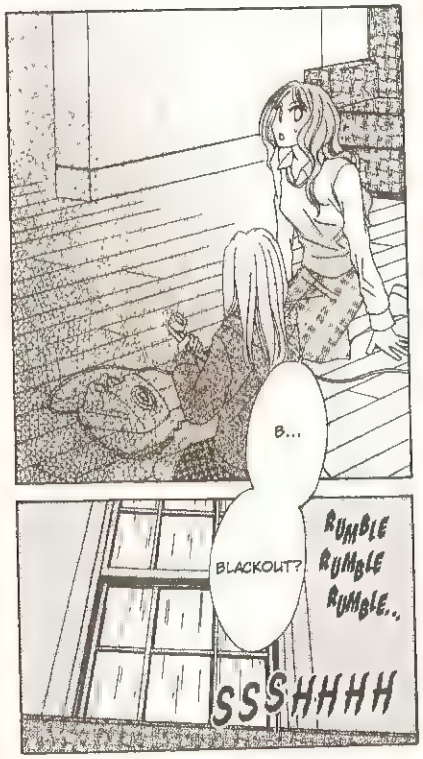
I PLAN TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO THE SITE AS I GO. I APOLOGIZE TO THOSE READERS WHO DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER... BUT TO BE HONEST, YOU'RE NOT MISSING MUCH IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT, SO DON'T WORRY.

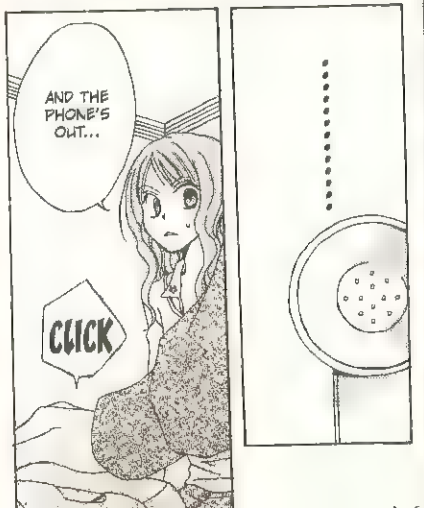
SEE YOU NEXT VOLUME!

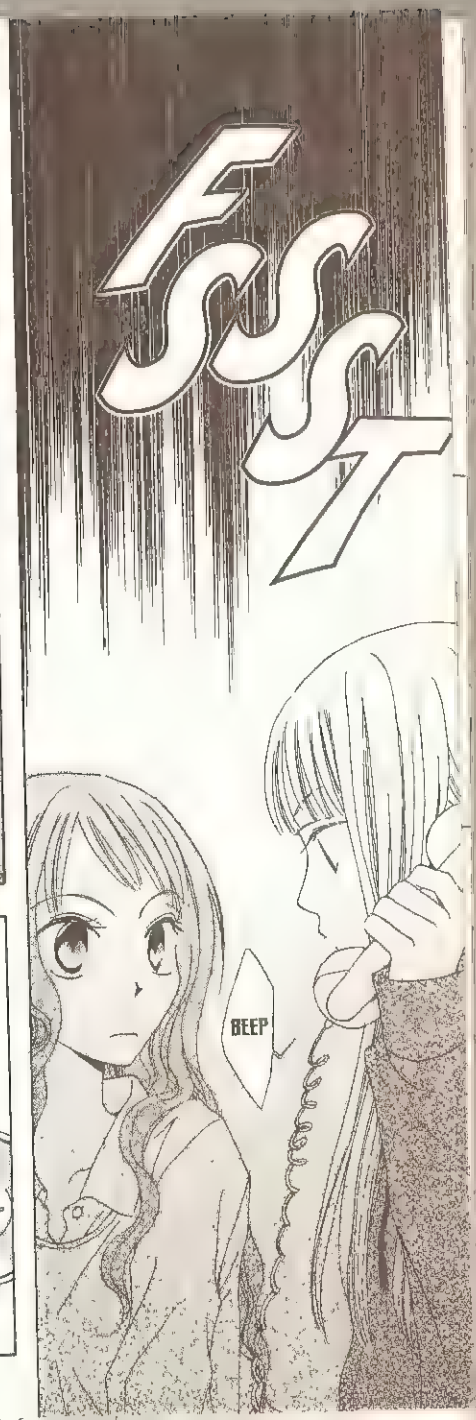


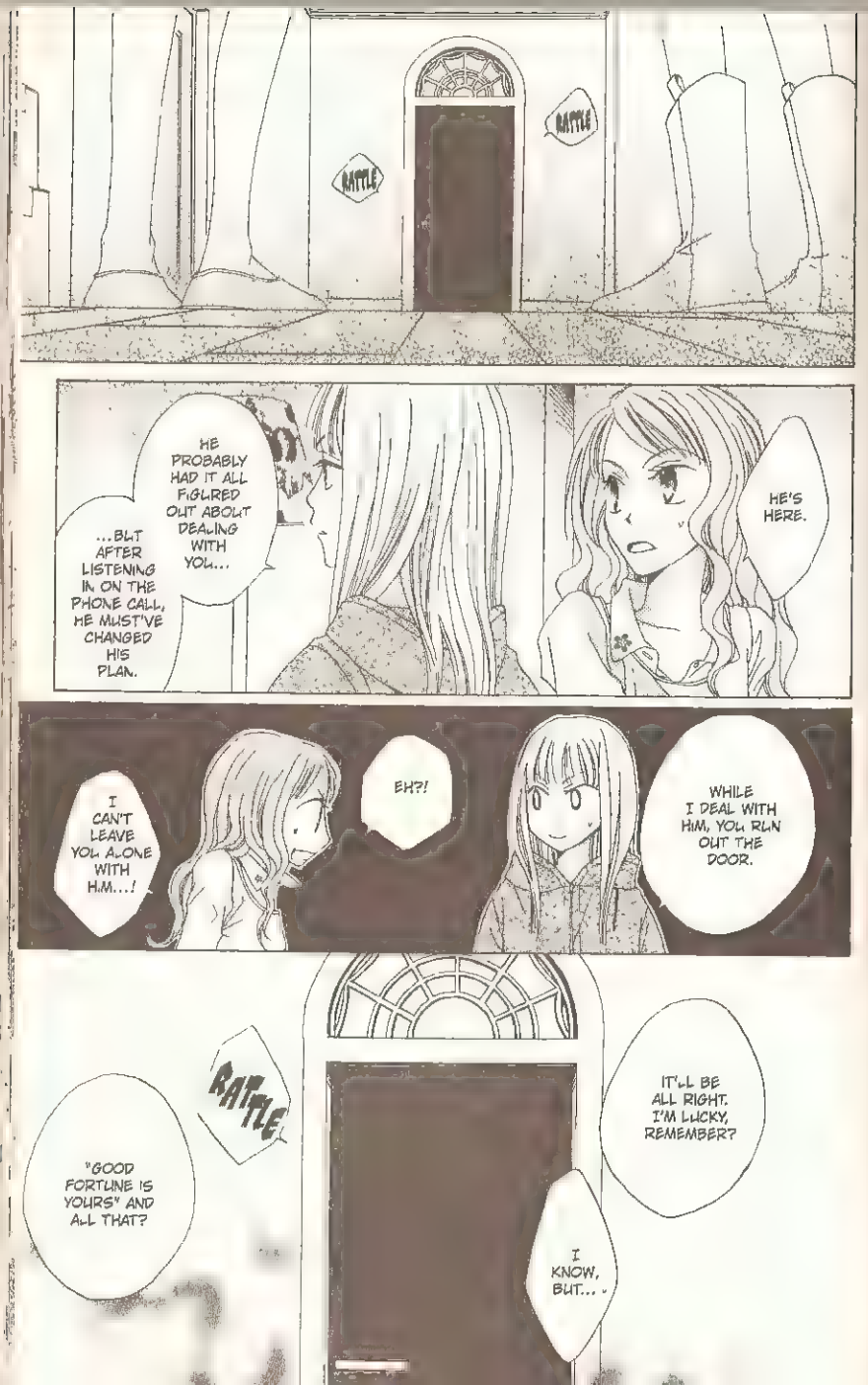

PART OF ME THINKS...
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TALK TO THAT MAN ALONE.
THUMP
...."WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!"
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN EYES...
FIRST, CALL THE POLICE...
ALTHOUGH THERE'S GOTTA BE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO HAVE SERIOUS EYES AND ARE LIARS...
THEN I'LL BELIEVE YOU
...ALL RIGHT.
...MORE SERIOUS.


I WAS CARELESS.
I SHOULD'VE REALIZED...
THE TIMING IS TOO PERFECT.
I DON'T THINK THE RAIN OR LIGHTNING ARE TO BLAME HERE...
...HE MAY HAVE HAD THE PHONES BUGGED.


B...
BLACKOUT?
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE..
SSSHHHH


AND THE PHONE'S OUT...
CLICK


FSST
BEEP


RATTLE
RATTLE
HE'S HERE.
HE PROBABLY HAD IT ALL FIGURED OUT ABOUT DEALING WITH YOU...
...BUT AFTER LISTENING IN ON THE PHONE CALL, HE MUST'VE CHANGED HIS PLAN.
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH H.M...!
EH?!
WHILE I DEAL WITH HIM, YOU RUN OUT THE DOOR.
RATTLE
"GOOD FORTUNE IS YOURS" AND ALL THAT?
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. I'M LUCKY, REMEMBER?
I KNOW, BUT...

WHY WOULD HE GO THAT FAR?!
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF, BUT IT'S CLEAR YOU'RE HIS NEXT TARGET!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS BUILDING?!
RATTLE
RATTLE
HUH?
RATTLE
ONE GOOD THING
YOU'RE ON THE FIRST FLOOR...
...SO WE CAN CLIMB OUT THE WINDOW AND...
RATTLE
WINDOW OVER HERE'S NAILED SHUT, TOO...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S A STEP AHEAD OF US!!
NAILED

MR. MILANO...
HEH
YOU STILL THINK I'M REALLY CHARLO MILANO, APARTMENT MANAGER?
YOU TELL US WHAT IT IS YOU'RE AFTER FIRST, MR. MILANO!
I'M AN IMPOSTER.
I GOT RID OF THE REAL MANAGER AND TOOK HIS PLACE...
JUST FOR REFERENCE...
I DON'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING TO A GIRL I JUST MET THAT WOULD MERIT A PHONE CALL TO THE COPS.
...WILL YOU TELL ME WHERE I WENT WRONG?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I CAN'T FOR THE LIFE OF ME FIGURE OUT WHY YOU'RE SO SUSPICIOUS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY...?

CREAK
CLICK
LOOK, I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO FOR ME...
BEING LUCKY HAS GIVEN ME SOME MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE.

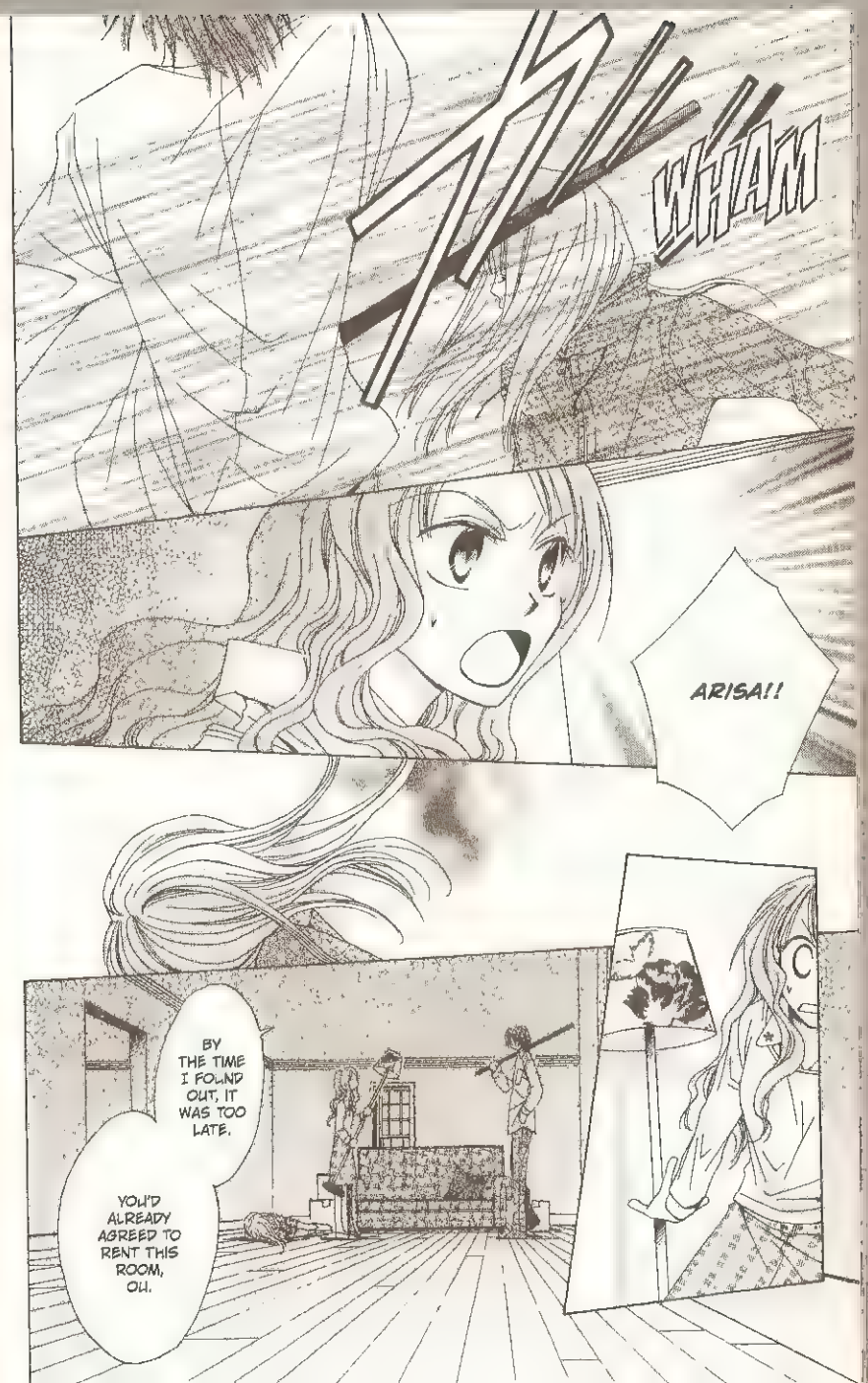
SWISH
ARI...
FWISH
WHA...?
URK!
KRAK

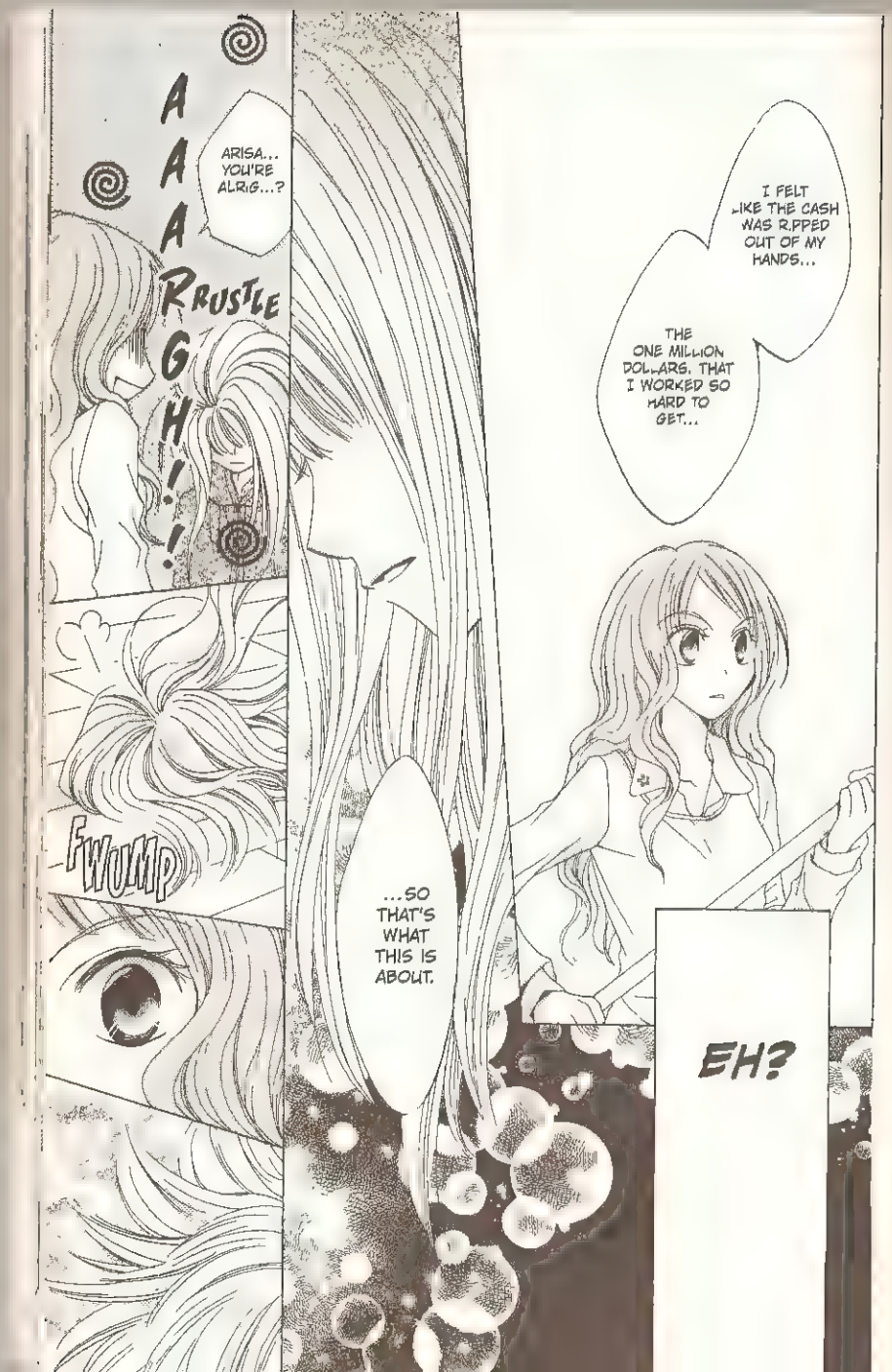
THE SAME AS YOU...
...OU.
...BECAUSE HE WAS IN MY WAY.
SWISH
WHAM
UNGH!
EVEN BROUGHT ALONG ANOTHER PERSON I HAVE TO DEAL WITH!
WHACK
YOU REALLY ARE A HINDRANCE...
ARISA!

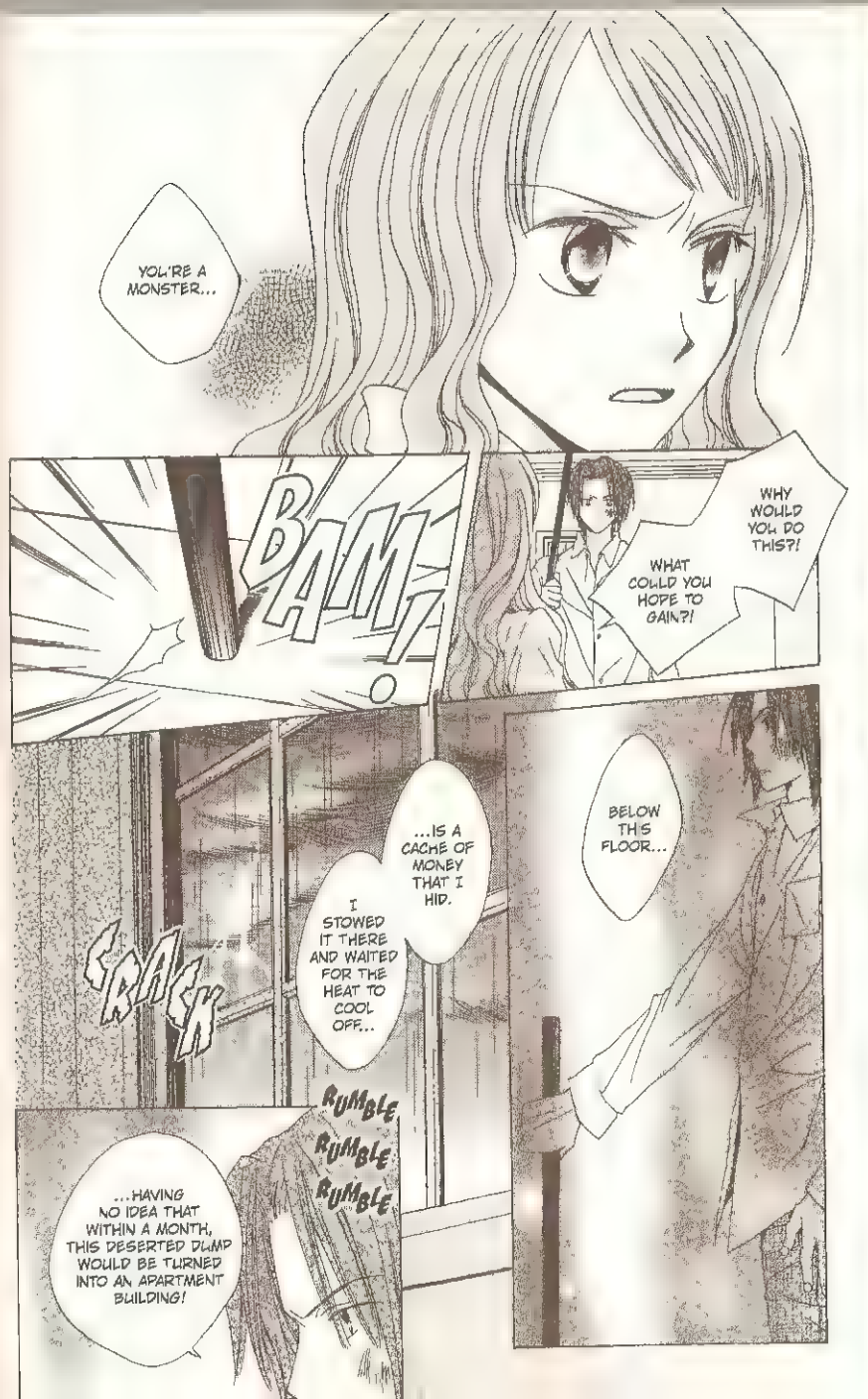
GUESS YOU WERE TOO SOFT ON ME!
WHACK
OH... NOW!
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY USED TO FIGHTING!!
YOU NAILED HIM WITH A ROUNDHOUSE KICK!!
AHH!
SQUEEZ...
WELL, WELL...
WHO IS THIS GIRL...?!

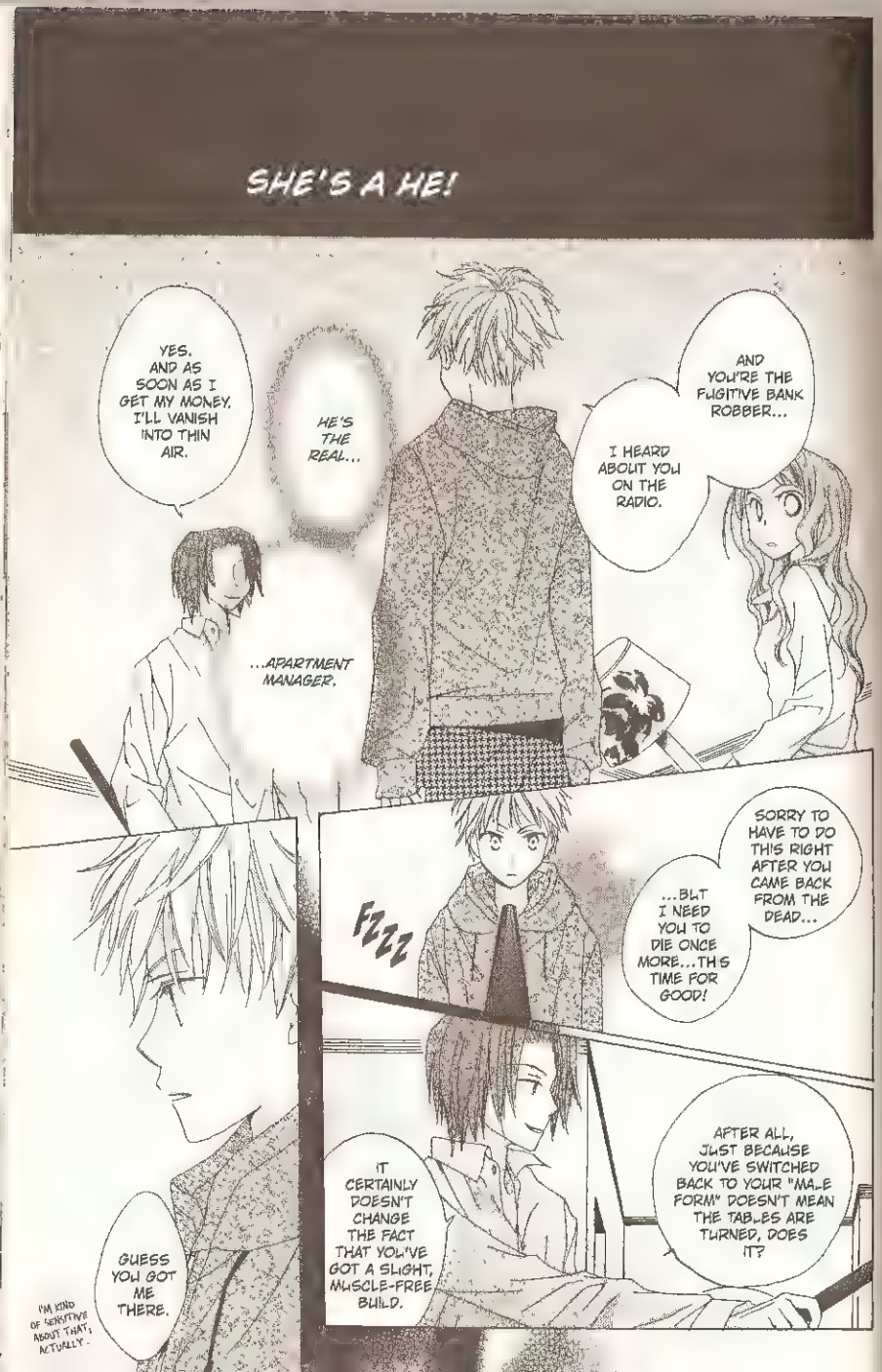
GAH!
RRR.
STAGGER
WHUMP
SHE...
POOF

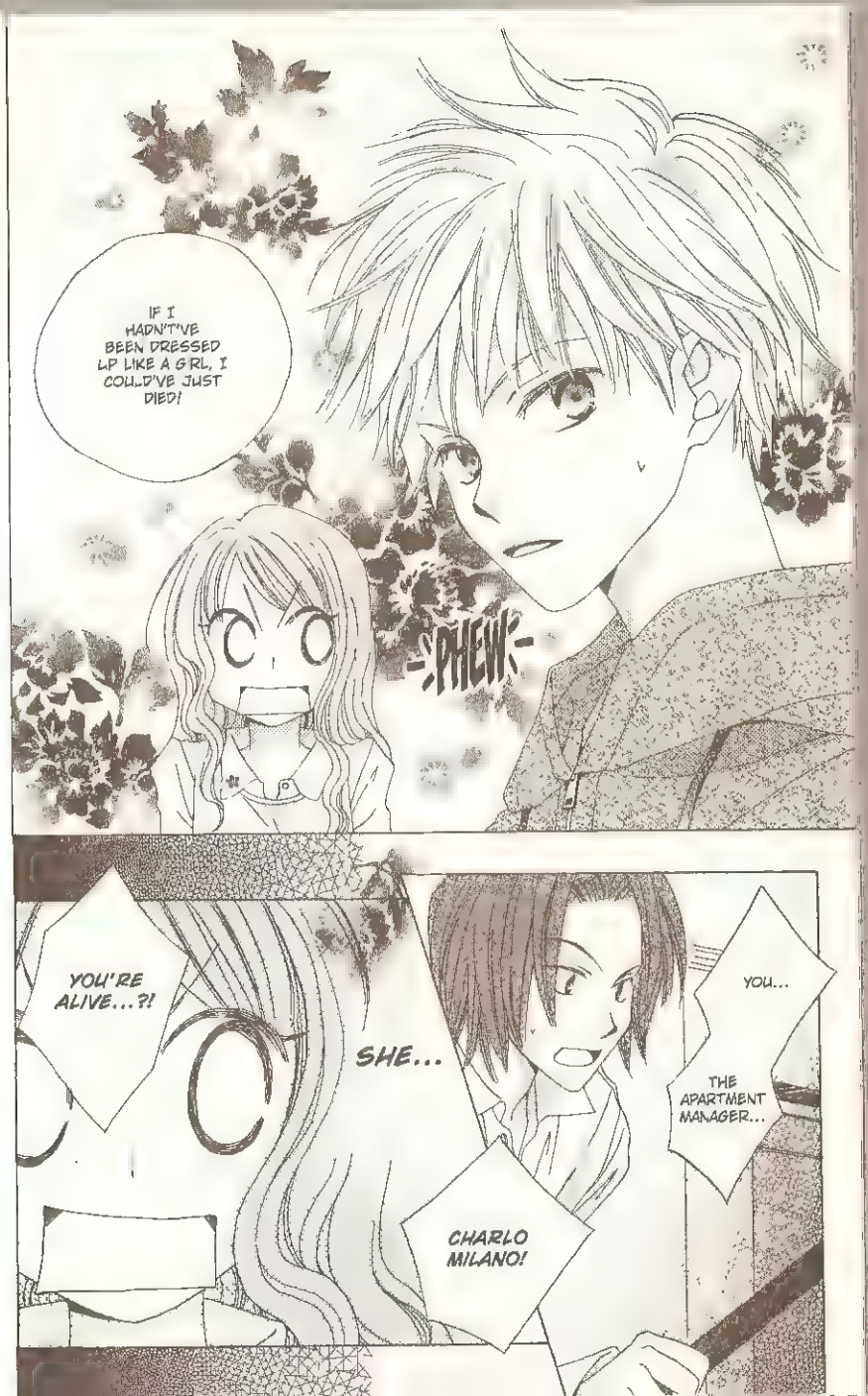
"I'LL MEET YOU THERE."
...HE WENT TO MEET YOU. UNFORTUNATELY, HE PERISHED ALONG THE WAY...
HE WAS SO HAPPY TO GET HIS FIRST TENANT...
...UNTIL TODAY.
I WAS ON PINS AND NEEDLES, WAITING FOR YOU TO MOVE IN.
I COULDN'T EVEN TOUCH THE MANAGER...
I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET RID OF YOU.
ARISA, ARE YOU OKAY?
...IT SOUNDED LIKE THE MANAGER COULDN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU EITHER.
JUST FROM THE PHONE CONVERSATIONS I LISTENED IN ON...
OH, YEAH!


WHAM
ARISA!!
YOU'D ALREADY AGREED TO RENT THIS ROOM, OH.
BY THE TIME I FOUND OUT, IT WAS TOO LATE.


AAAGH!!
RUSTLE
ARISA... YOU'RE ALRIG...?
FWUMP
I FELT LIKE THE CASH WAS R.PPED OUT OF MY HANDS...
THE ONE MILLION DOLLARS. THAT I WORKED SO HARD TO GET...
...SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
EH?

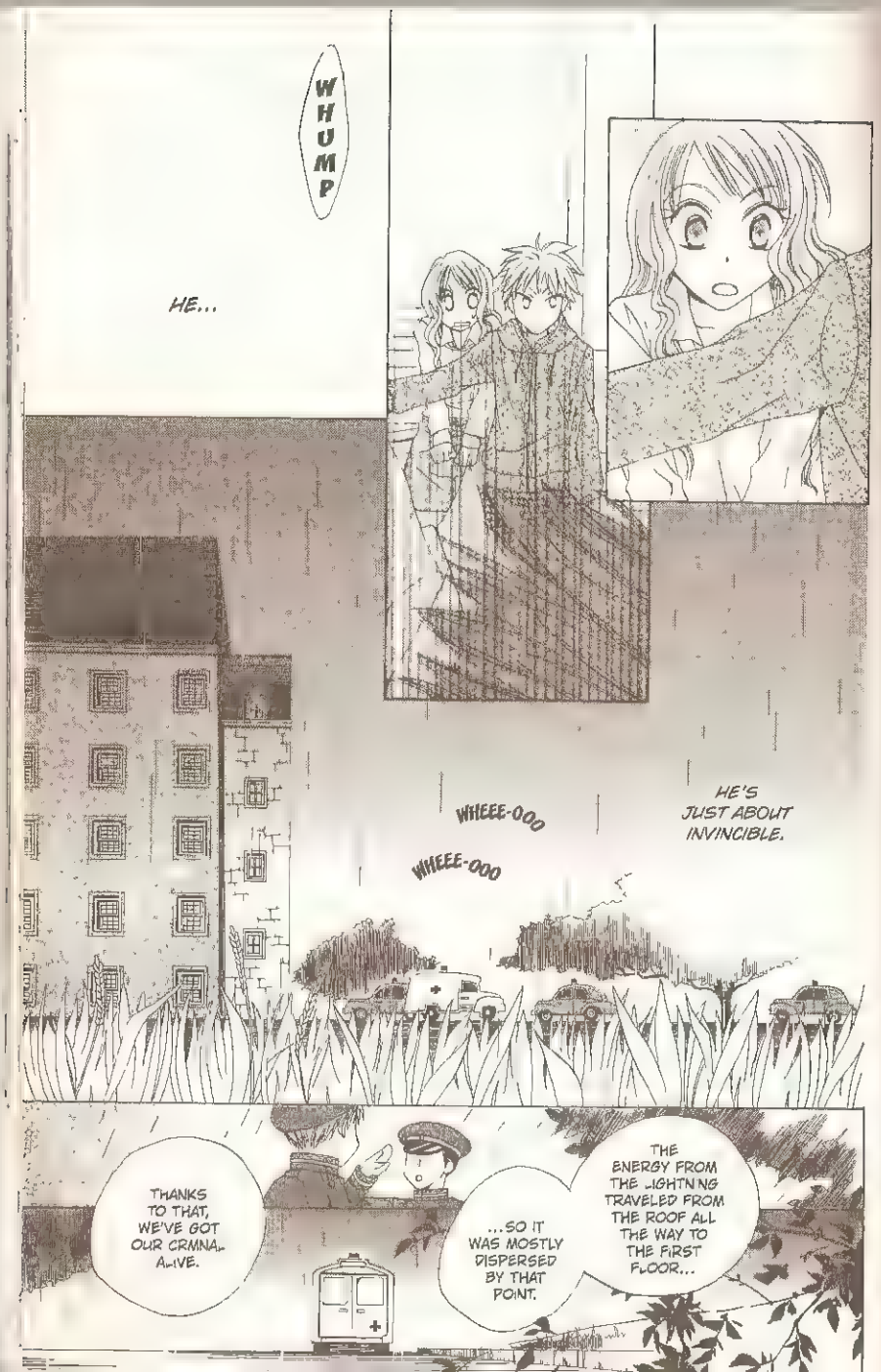

YOU'RE A MONSTER...
BAM!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!
WHAT COULD YOU HOPE TO GAIN?!
BELOW THIS FLOOR...
...IS A CACHE OF MONEY THAT I HID.
I STOWED IT THERE AND WAITED FOR THE HEAT TO COOL OFF...
CRACK
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
...HAVING NO IDEA THAT WITHIN A MONTH, THIS DESERTED DUMP WOULD BE TURNED INTO AN APARTMENT BUILDING!

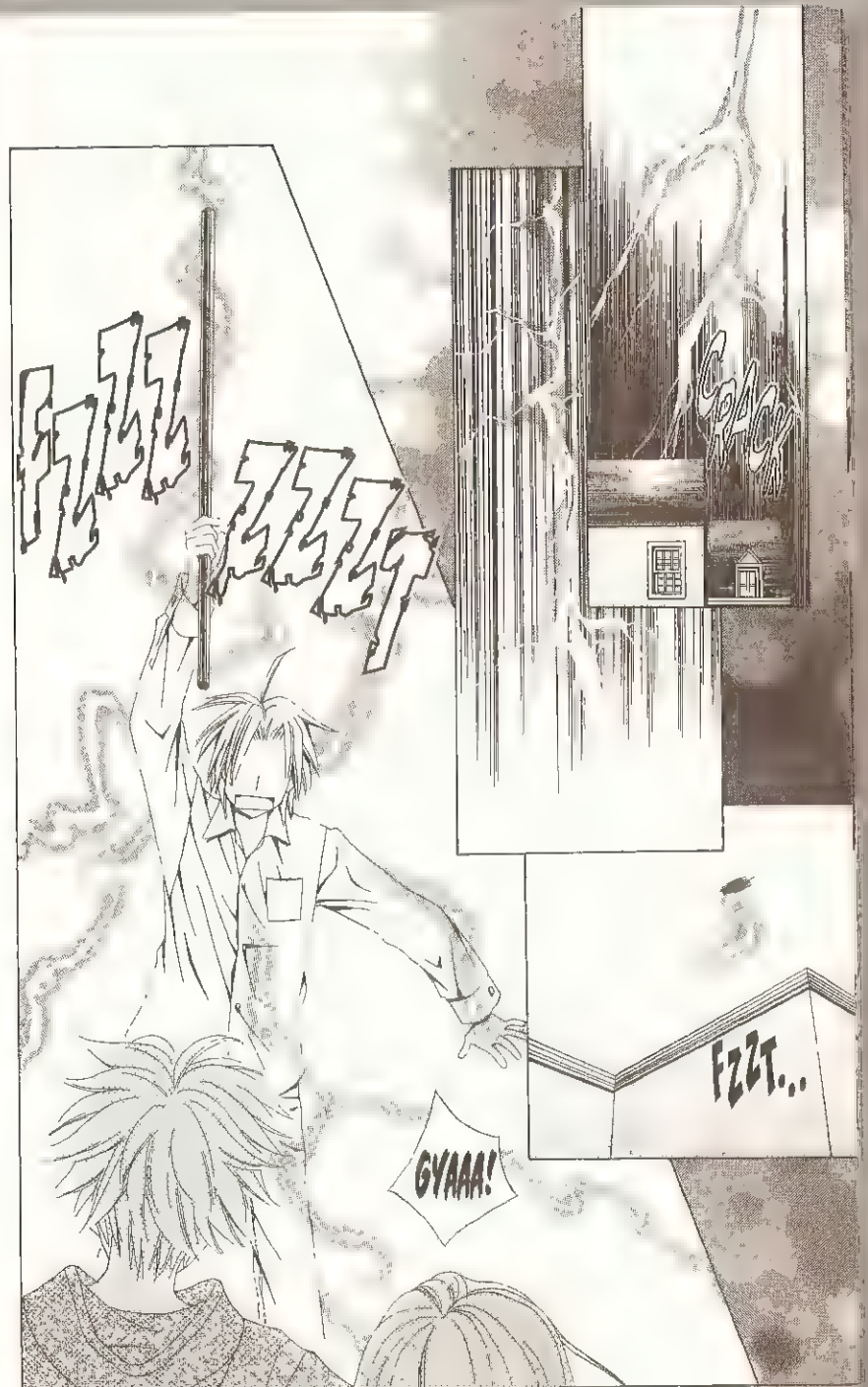

SHE'S A HE!
YES. AND AS SOON AS I GET MY MONEY, I'LL VANISH INTO THIN AIR.
HE'S THE REAL...
...APARTMENT MANAGER.
I HEARD ABOUT YOU ON THE RADIO.
AND YOU'RE THE FUGITIVE BANK ROBBER...
FZZZ
...BUT I NEED YOU TO DIE ONCE MORE...THIS TIME FOR GOOD!
SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT AFTER YOU CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD...
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'VE GOT A SLIGHT, MUSCLE-FREE BUILD.
AFTER ALL, JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE SWITCHED BACK TO YOUR "MALE FORM" DOESN'T MEAN THE TABLES ARE TURNED, DOES IT?
GUESS YOU GOT ME THERE.
I'M KIND OF SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT, ACTUALLY.

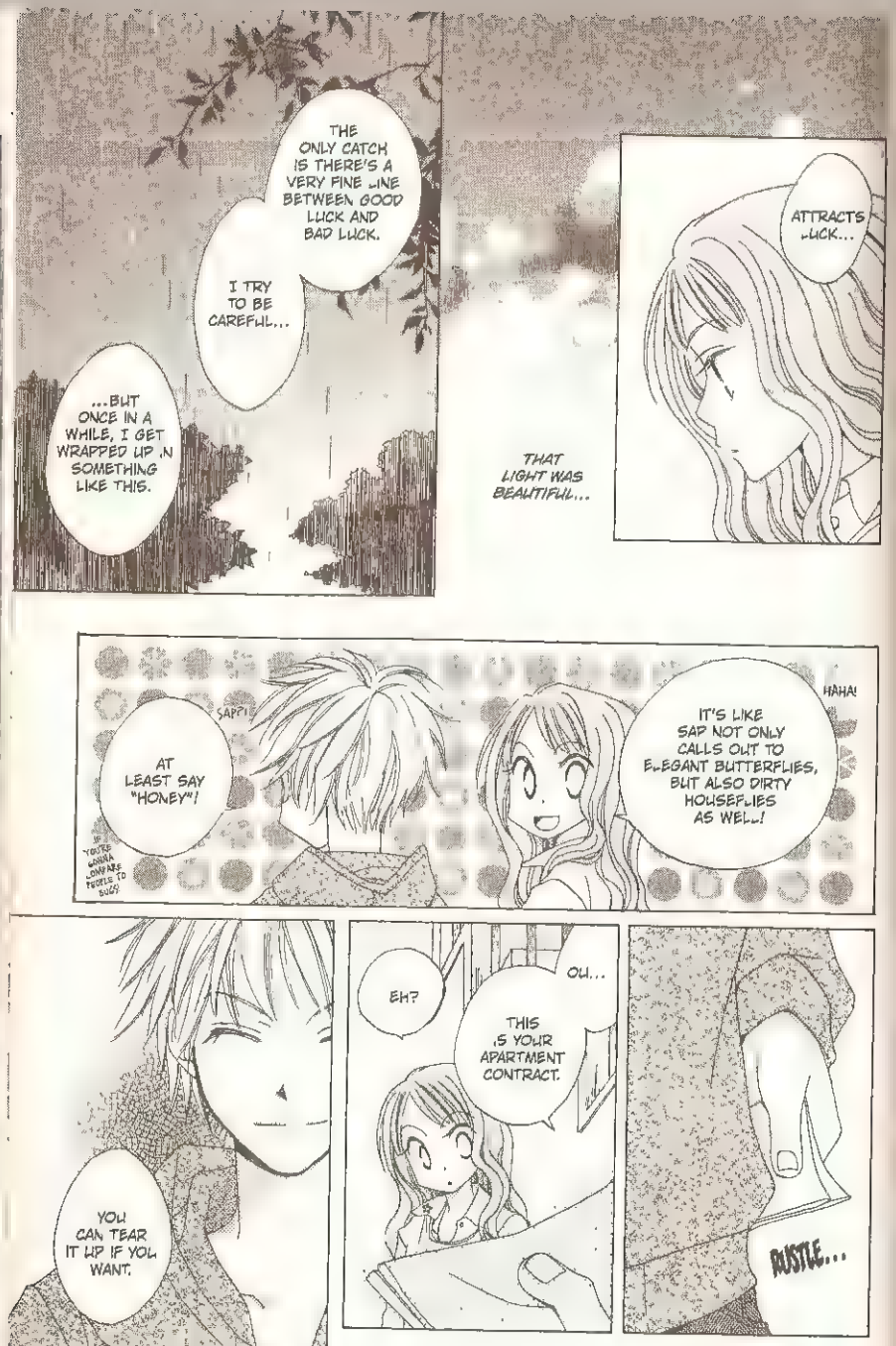

IF I HADN'T'VE BEEN DRESSED UP LIKE A GIRL, I COULD'VE JUST DIED!
-PHEW-
YOU'RE ALIVE...?!
SHE...
YOU...
THE APARTMENT MANAGER...
CHARLO MILANO!

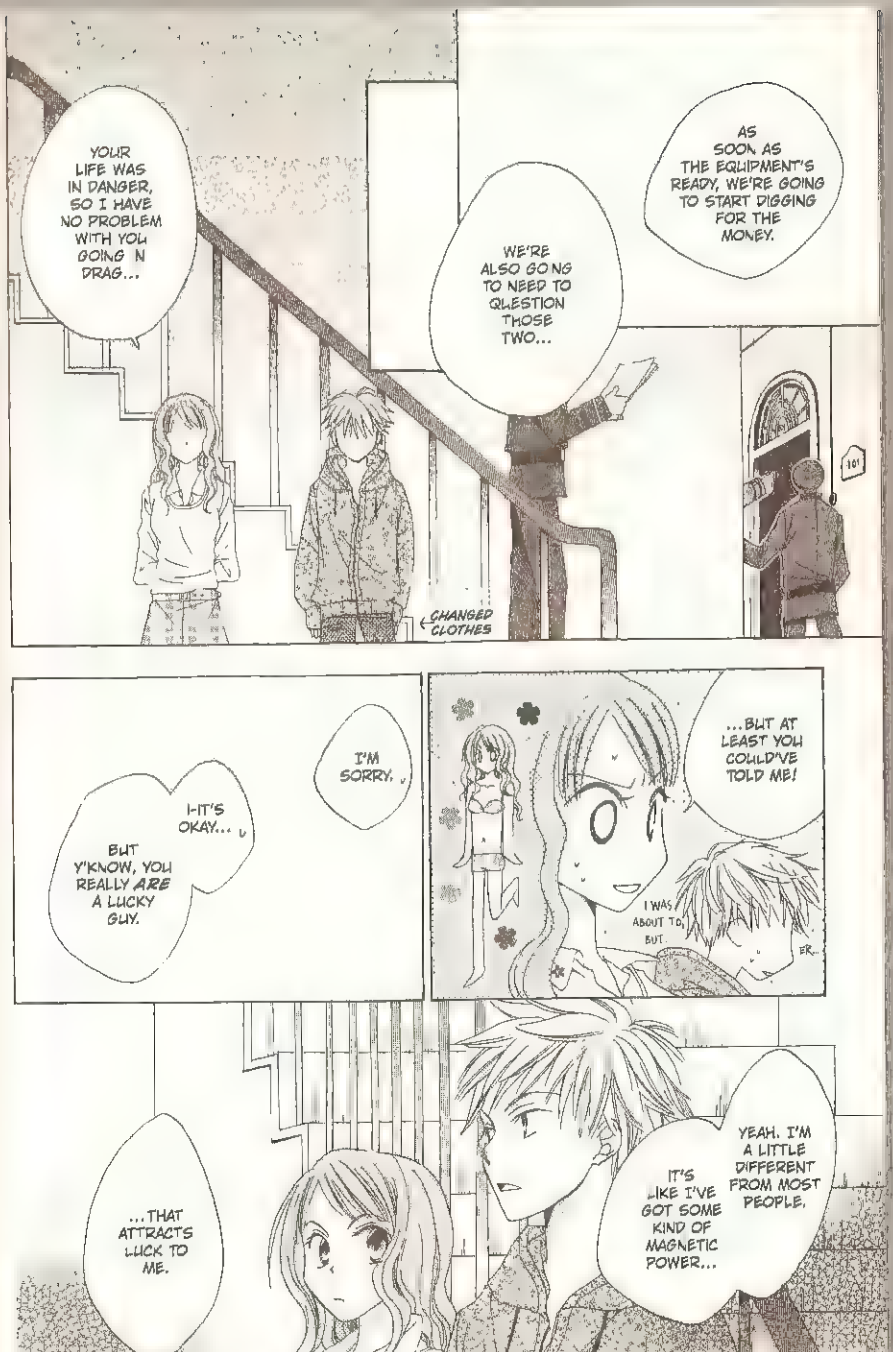
AH!
THERE IT IS AGAIN! THAT LIGHT...
ZZZZ
ZZZT

BUT...
...OH ...?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SSSH
EVEN WITH GETTING CAUGHT UP IN A HUNDRED MILLION STOLEN SMACKERS...
...YOU STILL HAVE FAITH IN MY LUCK, DON'T YOU?


WHUMP
HE...
HE'S JUST ABOUT INVINCIBLE.
WHEEE-OOO
WHEEE-OOO
THANKS TO THAT, WE'VE GOT OUR CRMNAL ALIVE.
...SO IT WAS MOSTLY DISPERSED BY THAT POINT.
THE ENERGY FROM THE LIGHTNING TRAVELED FROM THE ROOF ALL THE WAY TO THE FIRST FLOOR...


FZZZ
FZZZZT
FZZT..
GYAAA!


THE ONLY CATCH IS THERE'S A VERY FINE LINE BETWEEN GOOD LUCK AND BAD LUCK.
I TRY TO BE CAREFUL...
...BUT ONCE IN A WHILE, I GET WRAPPED UP IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
ATTRACTS LUCK...
THAT LIGHT WAS BEAUTIFUL...
SAP?!
AT LEAST SAY "HONEY"!
IF YOU'RE GONNA COMPARE PEOPLE TO BUGS!
HAHA!
IT'S LIKE SAP NOT ONLY CALLS OUT TO ELEGANT BUTTERFLIES, BUT ALSO DIRTY HOUSEFLIES AS WELL!
YOU CAN TEAR IT UP IF YOU WANT.
EH?
OH...
THIS IS YOUR APARTMENT CONTRACT.
RUSTLE...


YOUR LIFE WAS IN DANGER, SO I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH YOU GOING IN DRAG...
WE'RE ALSO GOING TO NEED TO QUESTION THOSE TWO...
AS SOON AS THE EQUIPMENT'S READY, WE'RE GOING TO START DIGGING FOR THE MONEY.
101
CHANGED CLOTHES
I'M SORRY.
I-IT'S OKAY...
BUT Y'KNOW, YOU REALLY ARE A LUCKY GUY.
...BUT AT LEAST YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME!
I WAS ABOUT TO, BUT
ER...
...THAT ATTRACTS LUCK TO ME.
IT'S LIKE I'VE GOT SOME KIND OF MAGNETIC POWER...
YEAH. I'M A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM MOST PEOPLE.

WHATEVER IT WAS THAT ATTRACTED ME TO YOU...
...AM I A BUTTERFLY? OR JUST A FLY?
YOU'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF ME, MR. MILANO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOU LUCKY...
CALL ME CHARLO.
...SWEET HONEY?

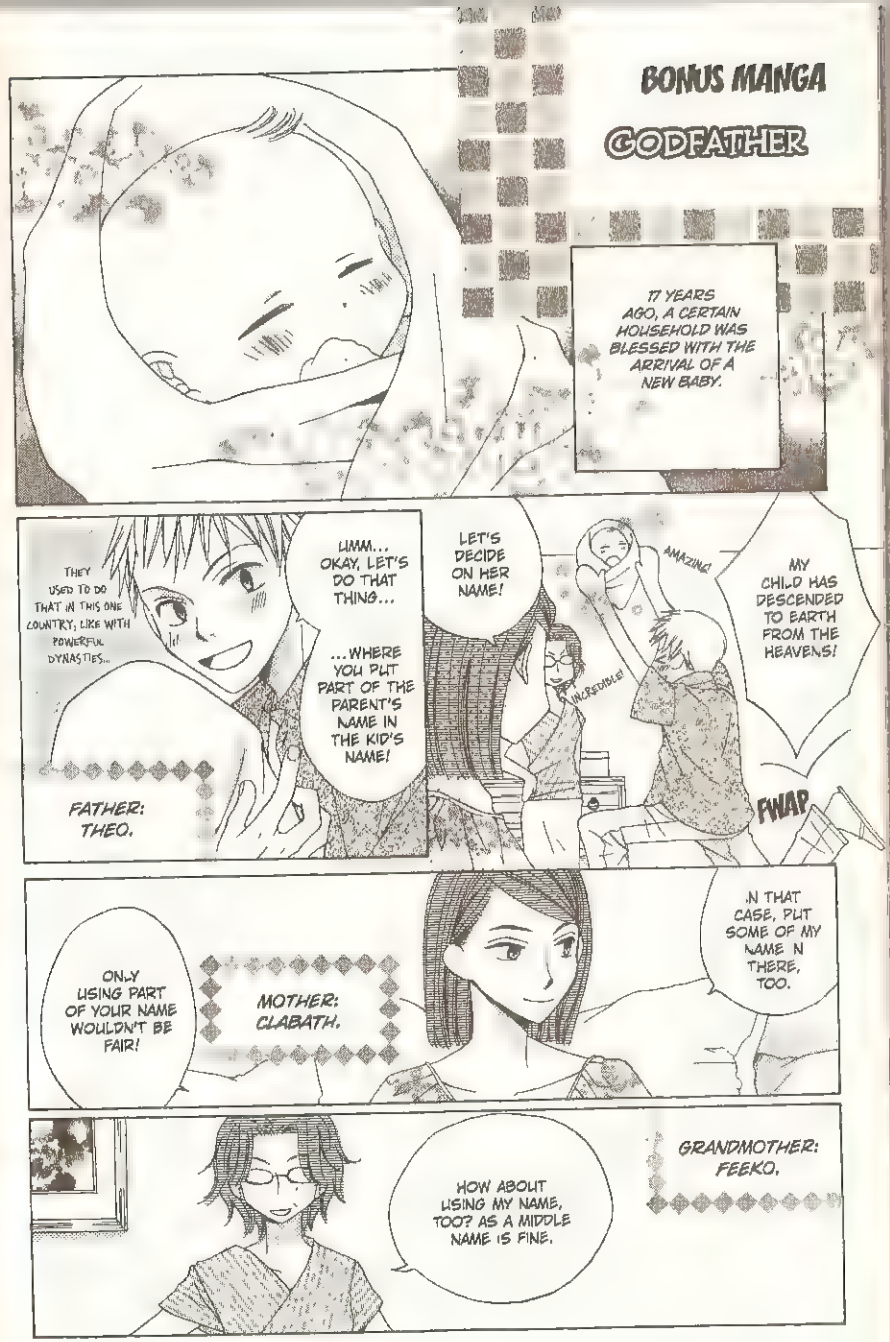
CONTRACT PAPILLON: THE END

NOW THAT...THAT REALLY SOUNDS LIKE A STRONG NAME!
THEOBATHKO.
OH, THEOBATHKO!
OKAY, WE'LL COMBINE OUR THREE NAMES THEN...
OH, MOM, COME ON! YOU KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BE RELEGATED TO "MIDDLE NAME WASTELAND"!
EH?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT?
I FORGOT TO PUT IN THE MASTER BUILDER'S NAME!
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY, FATHER.
GRANDFATHER: YUZAN.
WHAT IS IT, DARLING?
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
AND SO, CELLO OWES A LIFELONG DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO HER GRANDFATHER...
...THE ONLY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO COULD COME UP WITH A DECENT NAME.
CELLO.
UM... OKAY.
ZATHEOBATHKO.

GODFATHER: THE END

BONUS MANGA

GODFATHER


17 YEARS AGO, A CERTAIN HOUSEHOLD WAS BLESSED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW BABY.
THEY USED TO DO THAT IN THIS ONE COUNTRY, LIKE WITH POWERFUL DYNASTIES...
FATHER: THEO.
UMM... OKAY, LET'S DO THAT THING...
...WHERE YOU PUT PART OF THE PARENT'S NAME IN THE KID'S NAME!
LET'S DECIDE ON HER NAME!
AMAZING!
INCREDIBLE!
MY CHILD HAS DESCENDED TO EARTH FROM THE HEAVENS!
FWAP
ONLY USING PART OF YOUR NAME WOULDN'T BE FAIR!
MOTHER: CLABATH.
IN THAT CASE, PUT SOME OF MY NAME IN THERE, TOO.
HOW ABOUT USING MY NAME, TOO? AS A MIDDLE NAME IS FINE.
GRANDMOTHER: FEEKO.

NO.
DATE 2004-2005

KUSAKAWA NOTES

ABOUT THIS DRAWING:

MY MOTHER DREW THIS. IT'S YOYO.
WHEN I GET ALL HANDS ON DECK TO HELP ME WITH THE PALETTE MANUSCRIPT, MY MOM PITCHES IN, TOO, AND WHEN I ASK HER TO DRAW ME SOMETHING WITHOUT GIVING HER SUPERVISION...THIS IS THE RESULT. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE WACKO EYES, I'D ALMOST GIVE THIS A PASS FOR GETTING ALMOST ALL OF YOYO'S PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS RIGHT...BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?

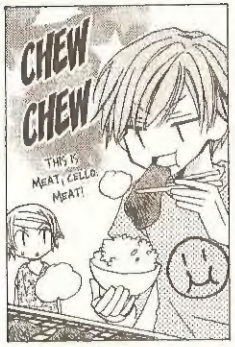
AT THAT TIME, DR. GHELL, SEVEN YEARS OLD, WAS STILL LIVING UP NORTH.

CONTRACT PAPILLON

IT SEEMS LIKE THIS STORY IS GOING TO CONTINUE, BUT IT DOESN'T. IN THE STORY, CHARLO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ONE YEAR YOUNGER THAN OLI. ORIGINALLY, I HAD ANOTHER CHARACTER, A CUTE LITTLE GIRL WHO LIKED STRAWBERRIES, BUT I CUT HER OUT IN THE ROUGH STORYBOARDING STAGE. (BOY, IT'S LIKE I INSERT FOOD INTO EVERY STORY, DON'T I...?) BECAUSE OF HIS POWER, RELATIONSHIPS ARE COMPLICATED FOR THE YOUNG CHARLO, WHO MOVED FROM ONE RELATIVE TO ANOTHER UNTIL ULTIMATELY, HE WAS TAKEN IN BY A CHURCH. THE REASON CHARLO COULD BE AN APARTMENT MANAGER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE IS BECAUSE HIS CHURCH BOUGHT THAT BUILDING. ANYWAY, THAT'S THE BACKGROUND. ALSO, HE MAKES A LIVING BY WINNING THE LOTTERY.

OLI'S APPEARANCE IN HER UNDERWEAR IS THE FIRST TIME I DREW A SCENE LIKE THAT, SO I FELT SOME HESITATION WHILE DOING IT. STILL, AFTER YOU DRAW SOMETHING ONCE, YOU GET USED TO IT, SO FROM NOW ON IN MY MANGA, EXPECT TO SEE EVEN MORE INDECENT EXPOSURE! DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. I WON'T MAKE IT "DIRTY", SO KEEP READING.

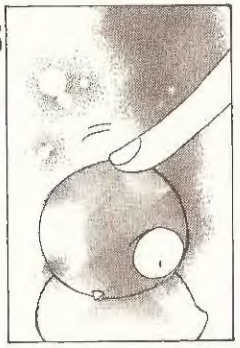
ABOUT EACH EPISODE



EPISODE 4

FINALLY, WITH THIS EPISODE, I FELT LIKE I NAILED DR. GUELL. (LATE!) I GAVE HIM A SCENE WHERE HE'S HAVING LUNCH WITH MOSSELYN, BUT THE IMAGE THAT I HAVE IS OF THE DOCTOR EATING NOTHING BUT LEAVES. I WONDER IF HE'D BE MORE EMOTIONAL IF HE CHOWED DOWN ON MEAT ONCE IN A WHILE.

EPISODE 5



I HAD A LOT OF FUN DRAWING LITTLE YOYO. I WANTED TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE MOUTH. WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I BROKE MY RIGHT ARM FROM FALLING OFF OF A LEVEL 6-HEIGHT GYMNASTICS HORSE. THEN, IN JUNIOR HIGH, I GOT A SLIGHT CRACK IN ONE OF THE BONES AT THE TOP OF MY FOOT. MILK? I NEVER COULD STAND IT.

EPISODE 6

WHILE DRAWING THEO-KUN, FROM BEGINNING TO END, I THOUGHT OF HIM AS A GOOFBALL. THIS 37-YEAR-OLD MAN SEEMS TO LIKE MANGA, LOGO T-SHIRTS AND FAST FOOD. MY INTENTION WAS TO MAKE THE DOCTOR CUTE WHEN HE WAS DRUNK, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF IT CAME OUT THAT WAY. ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER SEEN A CUTE DRUNK PERSON. IN THIS EPISODE, ALMOST EVERY PANEL THAT CELLO APPEARS IN HAS SWEAT COMING OFF HER FACE.

NO.
DATE 2004-2005

MY APOLOGIES FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WROTE TO ME BUT HAVEN'T RECEIVED A RESPONSE. BELIEVE ME, ALL OF YOUR LETTERS GIVE ME STRENGTH. PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS, OPINION, ETC. TO:

NARI KUSAKAWA
C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT STREET, SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR READING THIS; MY EDITOR, THE PUBLISHING COMPANY AND THE STORES FOR HAVING A HAND IN THIS; MY FAMILY, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT; AND THE LIQUOR STORE THAT LETS ME MAKE MY COPIES. I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU.

2005. 05.

KUSAKAWA NOTES: THE END

NO.
DATE 2004-2005

ABOUT MY IDEAS NOTEBOOK

FROM MY NOTEBOOK OF IDEAS AND SKETCHES THAT ARE MOSTLY TOO EMBARRASSING TO SHOW ANYONE, I'VE TRIED TO EXTRACT SOME THAT ARE OKAY FOR PUBLIC VIEWING. THEY'RE REALLY NOTIONS THAT I HAD AND THREW AGAINST THE WALL TO SEE WHICH WOULD STICK, BUT ACTUALLY, I LIKE A LOT OF THESE EARLY-STAGE DRAWINGS BETTER THAN THE WAY THEY TURNED OUT IN THE COMPLETED MANUSCRIPT.

TRACES OF WHERE I WASN'T SURE WHETHER TO GO WITH THE TRADITIONAL "PIYO-PIYO" BIRD SOUND OR "HIYO-HIYO"
HUFF PIYO
HIYO
SOMETHING HAPPENED.
USED IN THE TITLE PAGE FOR THIS VOLUME
WAAA!
WAAA
WOW.
GETTING DINNER READY
ORIGINALLY, I WAS THINKING OF HAVING THE DOCTOR MAKING DINNER WHEN THE BULL CHARGED INTO HIS APARTMENT.
BULL.
EEP!
I KNEW I HAD TO USE THIS AFTER I DREW IT.
THEO-KUN GETS CARRIED AWAY AND ACTS LIKE A PERVERT.
TICKLE
HAHA!
TICKLE
TICKLE
AND THIS, TOO.
HIYO HIYO HIYO HIYO HIYO

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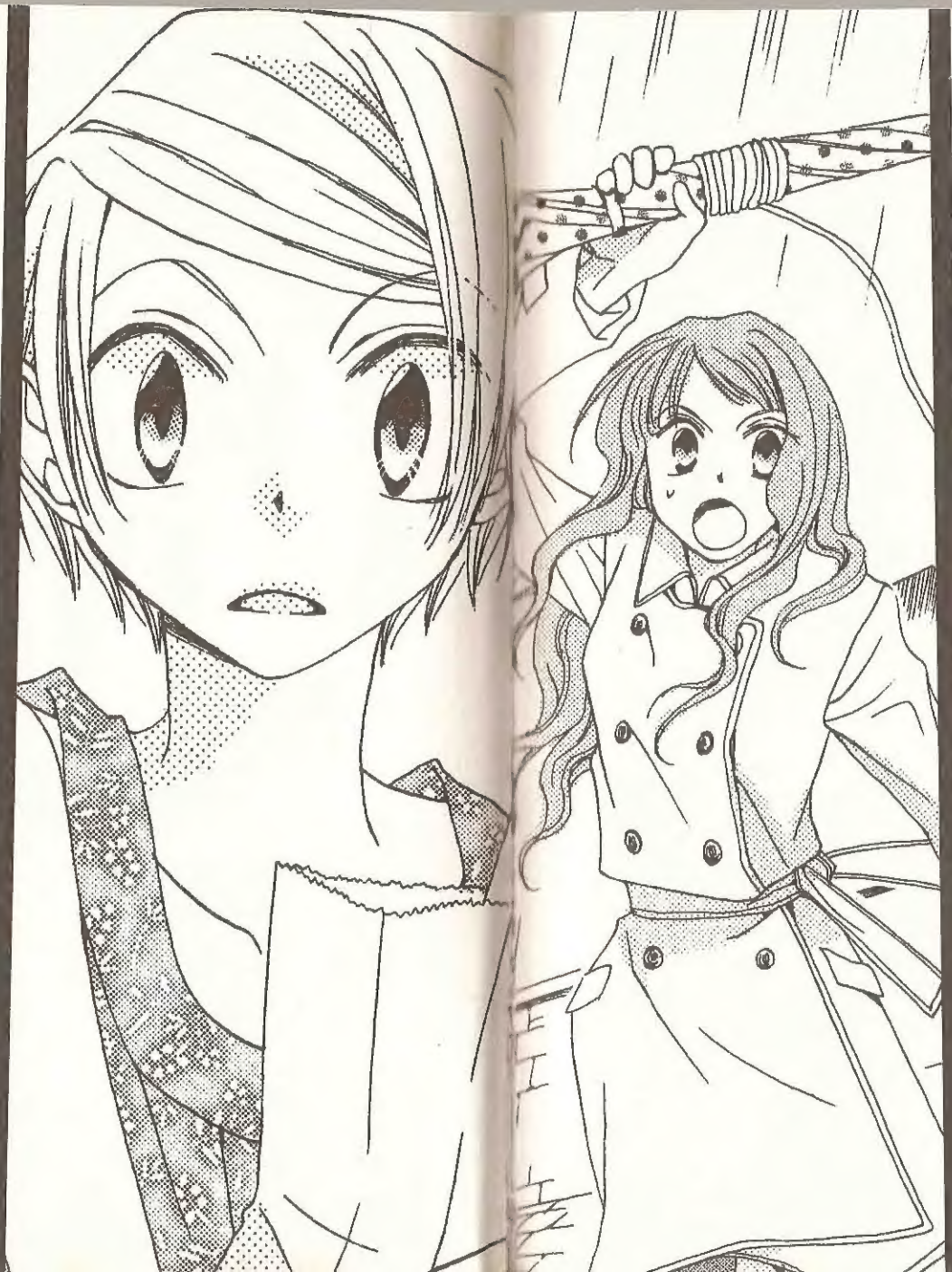

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T

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T+

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M

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